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RCMP ADMITS ERROR IN SKIERS' SEARCH, PG4

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2011 Grey Cup likely headed to Vancouver

SPORTS B.C. Place Stadium will host the 2011 Grey Cup, Premier Gordon Campbell and B.C. Lions owner David Braley are expected to announce Friday morning.

The announcement will take place at 10 a.m. at a Downtown hotel, media reports suggested Thursday afternoon.

In a press release, the B.C. Lions said "the club will make a major announcement." While in a second release, the province said Campbell was joining the Lions for "an exciting sport-related announcement."

The Lions last hosted the Grey Cup in 2005. Calgary will host the Canadian Football League final this year and Edmonton hosts the Grey Cup in 2010.

METRO VANCOUVER

Riding the Recession

Now through the end of March, Metro will share advice on how to cut down on expenses and navigate your way through the recession.

Canada

- **Looking for a cheap way for the whole family to have fun? Check out your local library — all you need is a card, pg 7**

Next Week

- **News — What tough economic times mean for city recycling programs.**

JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Darryl Brown shows the results of an unprovoked machete attack. His assailants have not been arrested and police say the incident has all the signs of a gang initiation rite.

'True cost of crime'

Victim of '06 machete attack seeks compensation in new bill

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

METRO WORLD
NewsExclusive

Darryl Brown says his life has never been the same since he was attacked with a machete in an unprovoked midday assault in Surrey two years ago.

His assailants — who police say might have been enacting a gang initiation — were never caught, and with a sudden spike in gang violence, Brown wants his family out of Metro Vancouver.

"The fear is back, living in the Lower Mainland where all this (violence) is happening," Brown told Metro News Thursday in his first interview since the attack.

"Being out in public with my (family) is scary, and it wasn't like that before."

On Monday, Brown went to Victoria to propose new True Cost of Crime legislation that would provide better financial assistance to victims of crime.

Brown was critically injured in November 2006, after pulling into the driveway of a Surrey home because of car problems.

Out of nowhere, he was attacked.

"I was hit in the back of the head and thought the hood had fallen down on my head, and I ducked and turned around and got hit in the front of the head. I don't remember a lot after that."

Vancouver police Det. Doug Spencer said the attack has all the signs of a gang initiation.

"They'll do it to prove themselves. It's real street-level stuff," Spencer said.

Brown took three machete blows to the head and his left arm was "hacked up and smashed into pieces."

He lost a finger and his left arm is held together with plates and screws.

He can no longer work as a welder and now gets $8 an hour in disability.

"I still see a psychiatrist (and) it's been a major toll on my marriage," Brown said. "Something has to change."

Legislation

- The True Cost Of Crime bill would also make criminals responsible for covering victims' legal fees.

Feds announce tougher gang legislation

VIOLENCE Prime Minister Stephen Harper was in Vancouver Thursday where he announced a proposal to crack down on gang crime by, among other things, instituting mandatory prison terms of four to 14 years for drive-by shootings.

He also suggested mandatory first-degree murder charges for gang murders and creating new offences for assaulting a police officer.

NDP MLA Don Davies said while the bill is a move in the right direction, it needs to be fast-tracked.

Dawn Black, NDP MLA for New Westminster-Coquitlam, added that Vancouverites are also in dire need of more police.

"We want tougher legislation to go after the proceeds of crime … and a comprehensive plan for preventing kids from joining gangs," she said.

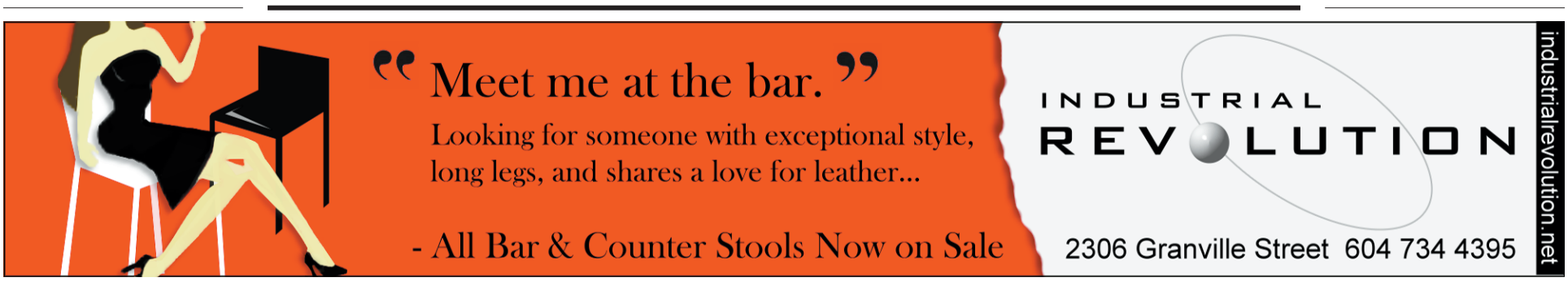
Vancouver police Chief Jim Chu, who was at the meeting, agreed the proposals will help, but echoed Black's suggestion that legislators explore the path of early intervention.

"By the time a vulnerable youth has been recruited into the gangs, he's long past caring about the threat of jail," Chu said.

KRISTEN THOMPSON /METRO VANCOUVER

Protesters

- Dozens of pro-marijuana demonstrators stood outside Library Square, where the Prime Minster held his meeting, to demanded the legalization of marijuana, which they said would cut down on gang crime.



Free Daily News Group Inc., operating as Metro Vancouver Newspapers 1190 Homer Street, Suite 250, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 2X6. Publisher: Maryse Lalonde

Drunk driving reduction efforts honoured in memory of four-year-old girl
The BCAA Traffic Safety Foundation recognized 26 police officers from across the Lower Mainland in memory of four-year-old Alexa Middelaer, who was killed by an alleged drunk driver in 2008. The officers were honoured for their efforts to remove impaired drivers from the roads. METRO VANCOUVER

Local

What a racket

Three of the top table tennis and badminton players in the world are being invited to Richmond for a round-robin tournament at the Olympic Oval. Racket Rally 2009, the first event of its kind, will be held April 3 to 5.
METRO VANCOUVER

$350M boost for transit line

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

The plan to build a rapid transit line from Burnaby to Coquitlam just got a $350-million leg-up from the federal government.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper made the announcement in Burnaby Thursday, adding that construction of the long-awaited Evergreen Line will create 8,000 jobs.

"In the short term we are creating thousands of jobs," Harper said. "At the same time we are … ensuring that local families and businesses have access to an expanded, efficient and environmentally sustainable transit system."

Premier Gordon Campbell, who joined Harper for the announcement, said the line will also create new economic opportunities and provide a better quality of life in the region.

The federal government has already provided $66.7 million for the project, which is expected to cost $1.4 billion.

Funding has also come from the province, which has contributed $410 million, and TransLink, which has committed $400 million.

The remaining $173 million will be funded by project partners.

Once completed, the 11-kilometre line will run from the Lougheed Town Centre in Burnaby to the Coquitlam Town Centre through Port Moody.

KRISTEN THOMPSON / METRO VANCOUVER
Prime Minister Stephen Harper, right, and Premier Gordon Campbell announce new funding for the Evergreen Line in Burnaby Thursday.

Timeline

- Construction on the Evergreen Line project is expected to start in 2010. The line is projected to be completed by 2014.

Officers charged in assault set to appear in B.C. court

JEFF HODSON
jeff.hodson@metronews.ca

Two Lower Mainland police officers charged with the assault and robbery of a newspaper deliveryman are expected to appear in Vancouver provincial court Friday.

New Westminster Const. Jeffrey Klassen has been charged with assault and West Vancouver Const. Griffin Gillen has been charged with robbery in an alleged off-duty attack on Firoz Khan.

Both officers were suspended with pay. However, in a release yesterday, the New Westminster Police Service announced that Klassen's suspension had changed to "without pay."

The alleged attack occurred outside the Hyatt Regency on Burrard Street at 2:30 a.m. on Jan. 21.

A member of Delta's police force was also arrested, but no charges were laid against him.

Makeover eyed for Pigeon Park

RECREATION Vancouver's Pigeon Park could receive a $187,000 facelift this summer.

The park board will vote next week on a concept plan that would see the park's concrete surface, benches and water fountain replaced and a public toilet installed.

The plan aims to preserve the existing trees in the tiny Downtown Eastside park.

A proposed overhead-grid lighting and a canopied area have been scrapped.

The toilet will be one of the eight automated public toilets that were approved by council in 2006.

If approved on Monday, staff will finalize the plan over the next two to three months, with renovations beginning this summer.

JEFF HODSON / METRO VANCOUVER

metronews.ca
WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video The RCMP admits their reaction to lost skiers in B.C. was inadequate at **metronews.ca/canada**
Video CBC boss considers selling off assets to survive economic downturn at **metronews.ca/canada**
Read the Metro Snapshot to find out what you need to know
Play free online Sudoku

Lockdown drills at school not due to Bacons, Principal says

TARYN MCELHERAN
for Metro Vancouver

The principal of an Abbotsford school where students have been practising lockdowns denied Thursday that the drills are related to having the notorious Bacon brothers living down the street.

Two of the three Bacon brothers, who police say have gang connections, live near the school.

Dave Stephen, principal of Prince Charles Elementary School, said it's all just a precaution that goes along with emergency procedures like fire and earthquake drills.

"The community around that school is certainly aware of that household, but it isn't something where we said to the kids, 'This is why they're doing this,'" Stephen said. "It's because it's a prudent thing, generally."

The lockdown procedure includes locking doors, closing classroom shutters, and having students gather away from doors and windows and staying quiet until instructed otherwise.

"From the administrator's point of view, if they don't practise it, then they won't know what to do if they have to do that," Stephen added.

News in brief

FIRE A 56-year-old man is dead after a fire ripped through a home on East 17th Avenue near Sophia Street yesterday morning. A 26-year-old woman was rescued and treated for smoke inhalation while two other residents managed to reach safety. Police say the fire is not suspicious.

HIT-AND-RUN A cyclist was awarded $170,000 by a Vancouver court after he was knocked off his bike by a car and injured. ICBC, the defendant in the case, argued the cyclist was not a credible witness because he didn't take reasonable steps to identify the owner of the hit-and-run car.

OLYMPICS Despite slumping retail sales, organizers of the Vancouver 2010 Games said sales of Olympic-related merchandise increased by 49 per cent this holiday season compared to the same period last year. The sales include more than 300,000 plush items.
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Plaza Club shutting down

The Plaza Club on Granville Street is hosting its final party this Saturday night before closing down for renovations. The nightclub is expected to reopen 10 weeks later under a different name. METRO VANCOUVER

RCMP admits errors

Force says it should have acted quicker to search for missing skiers

The RCMP admitted on Thursday that they had been slow to start looking for a pair of lost skiers, one of whom died after the couple spent more than a week wandering in the Rocky Mountains.

Gilles Blackburn, 51, and his 44-year-old wife, Marie-Josee Fortin, skied out of bounds at a resort in Golden on Feb. 15, but were not found until Feb. 24. Fortin had frozen to death.

Blackburn's brother, Yvon Blackburn, told CBC News the couple fought off wolves with their skis, ate leaves and built shelters to stay alive during their ordeal.

Yvon Blackburn also said his brother had gone to B.C. with his wife for a romantic Valentine's getaway.

The skiers left a series of distress signals. On the first two occasions these were spotted and reported to authorities, but the RCMP did not order a search.

"In similar circumstances ... we do call out search and rescue (teams). We didn't in this incident," police spokesman Cpl. Dan Moskaluk said.

"Search and rescue should have been called out on Feb 21. There is an error on behalf of the RCMP for not initiating a call-out on Feb. 21," he said, adding that the force was investigating what had happened.

Moskaluk said part of the problem was that no one realized the couple, visiting from Quebec, were missing. Police checks of hotels and the resort did not reveal missing guests or rental equipment that was overdue.

REUTERS

PHOTO COURTESY THE KICKING HORSE MOUNTAIN RESORT

A couple were skiing at Golden's Kicking Horse Mountain Resort before getting lost and spending nine days in the backcountry.

VideoOnline

The RCMP admits its reaction to lost skiers in B.C. was inadequate.

Motion would make fowl fair

JEFF HODSON
jeff.hodson@metronews.ca

COUNCIL Andrea Reimer is in a fowl mood.

The Vision Vancouver councillor has introduced a motion that would repeal the city's prohibition against keeping chickens and develop guidelines for the raising of backyard hens.

"The idea is not to make it mandatory to keep chickens." Coun. Andrea Reimer

"The idea is not to make it mandatory to keep chickens," said Remier. "But if you want to keep chickens and you're up to that task, here's an opportunity to do so."

The idea was forwarded from a Vancouver resident and filtered through the city's advisory body, the Food Policy Council (Remier co-chaired the council at the time).

Many cities including Burnaby, Surrey, Victoria and New York City allow the keeping of hens.

Guidelines that staff would have to look at includes how the hens would be kept and how many per yard.

"There are always issues about keeping animals, but we figured out how to make it work with dogs, so we should be able to come up with some guidelines that work for chickens."

The motion goes to council Tuesday, but a decision will likely be put over until March 5.

News in brief

WARNING An avalanche warning has been issued for the backcountry regions of southern B.C. The areas under watch include the South Coast, Kootenay Boundary region, South Columbia Mountains and the South Rockies.

CELEBRATION COPE Coun. Loretta Woodcock is asking the Park Board to plan to celebrate and have at least one community centre host an International Women's Day celebration in 2010.

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2009 World Police and Fire Games gearing up for massive participation

The 2009 World Police and Fire Games being hosted in Burnaby is expected to be the largest ever. With less than five months before the event, online registration has reached more than 4,000 individual athletes, 67 sports entered and 38 participating countries. **METRO VANCOUVER**

Mountie's pay forfeited for 10 days after driving drunk

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

A North Vancouver Mountie was ordered to forfeit 10 days pay yesterday following an RCMP disciplinary hearing for drunk driving.

Cpl. Darren Baker admitted at the hearing to driving under the influence in New Westminster in December 2007.

The punishment is the most severe Baker could have received without being fired or demoted, CBC News Online reports.

The charge was stayed in January because prosecutors forgot to turn over videotape of the cellblock where Baker was given a breathalyzer test.

By the time the mistake was realized, the video had been taped over.

The case was one of four drunk driving incidents involving Lower Mainland police officers last year.

Victim seemed to be 'acting'

JEFF HODSON
jeff.hodson@metronews.ca

The Mountie who radioed for paramedics after Robert Dziekanski was Tasered said he initially thought the 40-year-old immigrant was "acting" when he went unconscious following his handcuffing by RCMP members.

RCMP Const. Bill Bentley, testifying Thursday at the Braidwood Inquiry into the death, said the thought that Dziekanski might be acting crossed his mind in the five to 10 seconds before the immigrant began to turn blue.

"When he initially went unconscious, I thought perhaps, at the back of my mind, it might be an act," said Bentley, under cross-examination by Don Rosenbloom, a lawyer representing the Republic of Poland.

"When his skin started turning blue, I didn't think it was an act."

FILE PHOTO: JEFF HODSON / METRO VANCOUVER

RCMP Const. Bill Bentley is seen on a media feed testifying at the Braidwood Inquiry. Bentley is one of four officers to testify.

Bentley initially called for a routine ambulance to attend the scene, but about 12 seconds later upgraded the call to a "Code 3" emergency for the ambulance to travel with lights and siren and get to the scene as soon as possible.

"When his skin started turning blue, I didn't think it was an act."
Const. Bill Bentley

Dziekanski died at Vancouver's airport in the early morning of Oct. 14, 2007, after a confrontation with Mounties in which he was Tasered multiple times.

Bentley, who concluded his testimony Thursday, was the second of the four RCMP officers to testify.

Const. Kwesi Millington, the officer who fired the Taser at Dziekanski, is expected to testify Monday.

News in brief

POETRY Beginning the first week of March, SkyTrain cars and buses will bear the winning haikus for Vancouver's annual Cherry Blossom Festival. The winning poems were chosen from more than 1,500 entries from poets ranging from age seven to 76.

REWARD The family of a five-year-old girl whose $4,000 racing cart was stolen in White Rock is offering a $500 reward for its return. Jessica Park's cart was stolen in January from a locked trailer outside her family's home.

THEFT RCMP officers have arrested a 26-year-old man in Chilliwack and recovered a truck he has been charged with stealing. The vehicle was reported stolen on Feb. 19 in Abbotsford. Police say Daniel Fabas, of no fixed address, appeared to be under the influence of drugs at the time of his arrest.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Meggs taking the leap for women's ski jump in 2010

OLYMPICS A city councillor wants women's ski jumping in the 2010 Games.

In a motion that appears before council Tuesday, Vision Coun. Geoff Meggs has moved that council call on VANOC and the International Olympic Committee to include the sport in the 2010 Games.

In 2006, the IOC rejected the addition of the event because of its small number of athletes competing at an international level.

"The inability of women to compete seems to be a real gap in the Games," said Meggs Thursday.

"(The motion) is a way of supporting women ski jumpers, but also reminding the IOC that really, under Canadian law, there shouldn't be an issue.

"There should be equal competition where women and men are both treated equally."

His motion also calls for council to reiterate the previous council's unanimous resolution that called for the event's inclusion.

JEFF HODSON/
METRO VANCOUVER

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China bids to take over Calgary-based oil firm
China National Petroleum Corp. launched a friendly $443-million offer for Verenex Energy Inc. Thursday to give the state-owned oil company a stake in a promising Libyan oil concession. Shares of Calgary-based Verenex surged $1.75, or 22 per cent, to $9.55 on the Toronto Stock Exchange. REUTERS

Canada

U.S. wins lumber dispute

An international tribunal has ruled for the United States in a dispute with Canada over a softwood lumber deal struck in 2006, the U.S. Trade Representative's office said Thursday. The decision requires Canada to fix its breach in the agreement within 30 days, the U.S. Trade representative said in a statement. REUTERS

ROBIN KUNISKI/FOR METRO CANADA

Jean Ludlam, manager of youth services for Calgary Public Library, holds a story time at one of the city's libraries. Libraries are a low-cost alternative for education and entertainment.

Public libraries recession-friendly

JENNIFER HILLIKER
for Metro Canada

Riding the **Recession**

For an annual fee of just $12, Calgarian Anne Stefanyshyn and her two daughters have limitless amounts of entertainment.

At least once a week they visit the Fish Creek Public Library in south Calgary. Stefanyshyn's three-year-old daughter Rayna takes part in a 45-minute story-time session that's at maximum registration, while Stefanyshyn reads to her other daughter.

"We get so, so much value out of the library," she said. "I just buy a library card so she (Rayna) can come to story time. It's so worth it."

Last year, the Calgary Public Library boasted record usage, with more than 15 million books, CDs and DVDs borrowed. This is up 1.1 million from 2007, and Gerry Meek, library director, attributes it to the recession.

Heather MacKenzie, branch manager at the Alderney Gate library in Dartmouth, N.S., a Halifax suburb, says library use was steadily increasing in the Halifax area even before the recession.

Now, she says, financial-planning workshops are proving more popular, and books on budgeting are "flying off the displays."

"We get so, so much value out of the library."
Anne Stefanyshyn

She expects the library's English as a second language, literacy tutoring, and job-search workshops to be more popular in tough economic times, too.

With more than four million visitors a year, Ottawa libraries are the most visited public institutions in the National Capital Region, according to the library's statistics.

The libraries also offer 8,000 programs for all ages (attended by more than 190,000 people), special programming for children, 334 free Internet access stations and programs for seniors.

While cities like Calgary charge a fee for library access, other cities across the country have access for free — but change may be afoot.

Halifax city staff recently warned council that the budget is going to be tight this year, with cuts to services and tax hikes likely coming. Still, MacKenzie said the library has always had enough city funding that it doesn't need to charge for its services. The library doesn't charge a fee to get a library card, either.

"Looking at our community, we want to be as accessible as we possibly can. We've never needed to go down that road, and I'm certain we'd never want to."

WITH FILES FROM METRO CANADA

Risqué web ad for mumps shot goes viral

HEALTH Mumps have gone viral — in a good way.

A cheeky new Ontario government ad blitz to raise awareness of mumps among young people has become an Internet hit, achieving notoriety on the influential U.S.-based website The Huffington Post.

And Health Minister David Caplan couldn't be happier with the province's campaign to let Ontarians born between 1970 and 1991 know that they may need a second vaccination against measles, mumps, and rubella.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

On the web
Ad online:
- Watch the viral mumps ad at metronews.ca/canada

Feds unveil $3B stimulus stash

ECONOMY The federal government has revealed a plan for a $3-billion emergency fund, with the money to be doled out at its discretion to tackle the recession.

The surprise plan, which was not among the stimulus measures contained in last month's budget, was contained in the spending estimates for the coming year released Thursday by the government.

In the government's estimates, federal program spending is pegged at $236.1 billion for the fiscal year that begins April 1.

"What's worrying here is that the Conservatives are doing exactly what the Liberals did in the sponsorship scandal"
Thomas Mulcair, NDP

That figure is a six per cent increase from last year, but it doesn't factor in all the tax credits and infrastructure spending of last month's stimulus budget, which will push the country into deficit for the first time in a decade.

"What's worrying here is that the Conservatives are doing exactly what the Liberals did in the sponsorship scandal," said New Democrat Thomas Mulcair, referring to the $250 million program to promote Canada in Quebec after the province's 1995 sovereignty referendum.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

ECONOMY Wal-Mart Stores Inc.'s Canadian division said Thursday it will close its Sam's Club locations in Ontario to focus instead on opening more Wal-Mart supercentres. The retailer said the decision will result in the closure of six Sam's Club locations, but it is in discussions with a U.S. retailer to purchase Wal-Mart's interest in five stores.

AURORA BOREALIS A camera being set up in Yellowknife will allow people around the world to watch the northern lights online. The Canadian Space Agency is teaming up with partners in Yellowknife and Calgary to broadcast the lights.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Recession will hit schools, study says

The recession will hit post-secondary institutions hard in the next few years, and governments should allow dramatic fee increases to help deal with a shortfall in revenues, a new report says. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Forest industry official to make pitch to Green party

POLITICS A potential battle between the clear-cutters and the tree-huggers is more likely to be a sober discussion of mutual challenges as the forestry industry makes its case at the Green party convention in Pictou, N.S., Friday night.

"The old concept that environmental groups hold demonstrations and forest companies dig in their heels has got dinosaur dandruff all over it," Avrim Lazar, president and CEO of the Forest Products Association of Canada, said in an interview Thursday.

That's the message Lazar, whose association represents an industry that's the world's biggest exporter of forestry products in the world, plans to convey to grassroots Greens when he delivers a keynote address at its biennial policy convention Friday night.

Lazar said he expects to find welcome ears in an audience that will include people who in past years would have been more likely to form human chains around trees than to listen to someone whose job it is to cut them down.

But he will argue forestry and environmentalists, traditional foes, are bound together by circumstance and, if they make their relationship a successful one, then they can also take advantage of new opportunities.

"If we just try to make money by ignoring the environment we fail at making money," Lazar said.

"If you try and save the environment without understanding the economic drivers of environmental degradation, you will fail to save the environment. The issue is: How do you integrate the two?"

Green Leader Elizabeth May was the one who invited Lazar to speak after hearing his views on climate change.

"Inviting and featuring in our program (Lazar) at least will give people reason to question their preconceived notions," she said. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

CHRIS WATTIE/REUTERS

Information commissioner Robert Marleau listens to a question Thursday during a news conference on the release of his report in Ottawa. The report said access to information on government workings is on the brink of "crisis."

Tories share access blame: Report

A secretive Conservative government shares the blame for an Access to Information system that is dogged with delays and on the brink of "crisis," a scathing report has warned.

Information commissioner Robert Marleau issued a hard-hitting condemnation Thursday of Ottawa's "risk-averse, disclosure averse" atmosphere that denies Canadians the information they're entitled to about the workings of the federal government.

And he singled out the Conservatives' "stranglehold in the centre on communications" and challenged Ottawa's "tendency to withhold information."

"It will take the leadership of the government to change and turn this around. No amount of my barking or biting is going to change that," Marleau said.

"I think it's important this government make crystal clear what its intentions are on transparency," he said.

Ironically, the Conservative government came to power in 2006 in part on the promise to reform outdated Access to Information laws and make Ottawa more open and accountable. But Thursday, Marleau was forced to appeal to Prime Minister Stephen Harper to follow U.S. President Barack Obama's lead and send a clear message that open government is a priority.

"Public servants do want to serve Canadians and when they hear it from the prime minister that it is a priority to be more transparent and be more diligent in the disclosure of information, it would have a considerable impact."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Chaos breaks out during Nova Scotia murder trial

COURTS It took six peace officers to subdue two family members of a murder victim who went after a defendant in a provincial courthouse in Halifax Thursday morning.

The incident is proof courthouses need more security, said Rick Woodburn, head of the Nova Scotia Crown Attorneys' Association.

"Let's invite society's most violent people into your workplace, with weapons, and let them sit behind you for several hours," Woodburn said.

"Are you going to be looking over your shoulder?"

The fight occurred during a routine court appearance yesterday for Steven Maurice Colley, charged in the first-degree murder of Andre Jonathan Slawter in January.

Woodburn said the Crown attorney handling the case, Perry Borden, suspected there might be trouble, so he asked to have a metal detector set up and extra sheriffs posted in the courtroom. He also asked two RCMP officers who were at court yesterday morning to sit in.

Woodburn said when the two men went after Colley, it took all the Mounties and sheriffs to subdue them — leaving Borden alone with the unshackled accused.

METRO HALIFAX

Essential status no good: Report

TRANSIT Declaring OC Transpo, Ottawa's mass transit system, an essential service would result in protracted labour disruptions and higher wage costs, a city staff report stated.

The report will be discussed at the Corporate Services and Economic Development Committee on Tuesday. It states it's likely the city would need to seek special legislation to declare OC Transpo an essential service, rather than reach a mutual agreement with the Amalgamated Transit Union. But a report from the C.D. Howe Institute entitled No Free Ride: The Cost of Essential Services Designation stated the designation does not predict or prohibit future transit labour disruptions.

Since 1977, there have been approximately 671 strikes in Canada where an essential services designation was applied and those strikes lasted 38 per cent longer.

METRO OTTAWA

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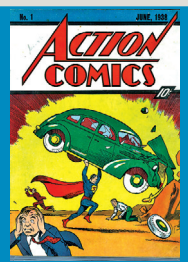
Antibody fights flu
An antibody being developed by a Dutch drug company chokes off both seasonal flu and the H5N1 avian flu virus, researchers reported Thursday. REUTERS

World



Supes comic up for auction

A rare copy of the first Superman comic will be put up for auction online Friday and bids could soar as high as the "man of steel," experts say. Action Comics #1, published in June 1938, is considered by collectible experts to be the world's most valuable comic book and is valued at about $126,000 US.

REUTERS

Facebook adopting new 'principles'

ONLINE Facebook Inc. is asking its members to help shape its governance policies after drawing their ire for a policy change that many perceived as being overbearing and potentially compromising privacy.

From now on, the social networking site will be guided by a set of principles that reflect its dedication to transparency and openness in communication, Facebook said Thursday.

Two draft documents are being put to test under what Facebook chief executive officer Mark Zuckerberg called a "new model of governance."

The "Facebook Principles" lay out the startup company's philosophy on privacy and control of information, while the "Statement of Rights and Responsibilities" are operating guidelines based on its big-picture stance.

Any Facebook member can access these proposals on the site and opine on them over the next few days.

The networking site will incorporate people's reviews when firming up governance policies. Future policy changes will follow the same democratic model, the company said. REUTERS

Drug wars raging

Mexican troops head to border town to target cartels

Mexico is sending up to 5,000 new troops and federal police to the country's most violent city, where law and order is on the brink of collapse in a brutal war between drug gangs aided by corrupt police.

The army said on Thursday the new deployment could take the number of soldiers and federal police to over 7,000 in Ciudad Juarez, across the border from El Paso, Texas. This month drug hitmen killed 250 people in Juarez, where a meeting of cabinet members Wednesday was rattled by bomb scares.

"In yesterday's meeting (government officials) talked about sending 5,000 troops and police to Ciudad Juarez," said army spokesman Enrique Torres. "They are expected to arrive in the next few weeks."

Drug trade analysts say those soldiers risk being overwhelmed by vicious drug gangs fighting over smuggling routes in league with corrupt city and state police.

Heavy presence

- Torres said there were 2,020 troops and 425 federal police in Ciudad Juarez, a city of around 1.6 million people.

President Felipe Calderon has sent out some 45,000 troops across Mexico to try to crush drug gangs, but clashes between rival cartels and security forces killed around 6,000 people last year. The U.S. is concerned the violence could spill over the border, escalating the conflict.

Mexico's most-wanted fugitive, Joaquin "Shorty" Guzman, who leads a cartel from the Pacific state of Sinaloa, wants control of Ciudad Juarez, currently in the hands of local drug lord Vicente Carrillo Fuentes, to traffic drugs into Texas.

Law and order in Ciudad Juarez is close to collapse as Guzman's hitmen seek to destroy the Juarez cartel's entire operation, drug experts say. REUTERS

Obama predicts huge U.S. deficit

POLITICS U.S. President Barack Obama forecast the biggest U.S. deficit since the Second World War in a budget on Thursday that urges a costly overhaul of the health-care system and would spend billions to arrest the economy's freefall.

An eye-popping $1.75 trillion US deficit for the 2009 fiscal year dominated attention as the Democratic president unveiled his first budget. That amounts to a 12.3 per cent share of the economy — the largest since 1945. In 2010, the deficit would dip to a still-huge $1.17 trillion.

Shares tumble

- Shares in Sallie Mae, the largest student loan group in the U.S., fell sharply on Obama's proposal to shift all federal student loans into the so-called direct-loan program administered by the U.S. Department of Education.

The Republican opposition in Congress was quick to condemn a budget plan that underlines Obama's intention to make good on campaign pledges to expand health coverage for the uninsured and roll back tax cuts for the wealthy.

Republicans condemned the plan as showing a dedication to "tax-and-spend" policies, presaging major political fights getting the budget passed.

"The American people know we cannot tax, spend and borrow our way back to a healthy economy," said Representative Mike Pence, a Republican in the House of Representatives. REUTERS

Mexico City **No bull from protesters**

JORGE DAN LOPEZ/REUTERS

An activist holds a sign reading: "No more bullfighting!" while other activists pretend to be stabbed by baderillas during a protest against bullfighting at Mexico City's main square Thursday.

French PM calls for order on Caribbean isle

PROTEST French Prime Minister Francois Fillon said on Thursday that security forces would maintain order on the Caribbean island of Martinique after youths clashed with police overnight in a protest over economic conditions.

The unrest on Martinique has spread from the neighbouring island of Guadeloupe, where talks to end a general strike that has dragged on since January appeared to be making progress.

Protests over the high cost of living started three weeks ago. On Wednesday night youths looted several stores and clashed with police in the capital Fort-de-France, French media said.

"We will not let disorder become established in Martinique," Fillon said following a meeting with 30 deputies from France's overseas territories.

The dispute has been closely watched in metropolitan France. REUTERS

Israeli girl, 14, becomes divorcee

A 17-year-old boy recently declared a 14-year-old Israeli girl his wife, reciting a Jewish ritual vow. The couple was granted a divorce this week. REUTERS

Tracks of history

Footprints show ancestor walked like us

Footprints found in Kenya that resemble those left in wet sand by beach goers today show that 1.5 million years ago a human ancestor walked like we do with anatomically modern feet, scientists said Thursday.

The remains of the footprints found in sedimentary rock near Ileret in northern Kenya most likely were left by a human ancestor called Homo erectus, also known as Homo ergaster, an international team of scientists wrote in the journal Science.

The scientists found a series of footprints, including one apparently left by a child, left by individuals walking on a muddy river bank. Judging from stride length, they estimated the individuals were about five-foot-nine in height.

"It was kind of creepy excavating these things to see all of a sudden something that looks so dramatically like something that you yourself could have made 20 minutes earlier in some kind of wet sediment just next to the site," archaeologist David Braun of the University of Cape Town in South Africa, one of the researchers, said in a telephone interview.

"These could quite easily have been made on the beach today," Braun added.

The footprints show the individuals had a big toe parallel to the other toes, unlike that of other apes where it is separated in a grasping configuration useful in the trees. The footprints show a characteristic human-like arch and short toes, typically associated with an upright bipedal stance. REUTERS

Human evolution

- Our species, Homo sapiens, first appeared 200,000 years ago. But this shows that at least as far back as 1.5 million years ago, the human lineage walked with a modern stride, the researchers said.

Greek crash case goes to Cyprus court

TRIAL Three people appeared in a Cyprus court on Thursday charged with involvement in a 2005 plane crash that killed 121 people in Greece's worst and most perplexing air disasters on record.

Executives of the privately owned Cypriot Helios Airways airline, which has suspended operations, and the airline itself face charges of manslaughter and of causing death through negligence in a highly charged case.

Investigators say lack of oxygen knocked unconscious almost everyone on board the Helios Airways Boeing 737-300 flight travelling from Larnaca in Cyprus to Prague on Aug. 14, 2005.

It flew on autopilot for two hours before smashing into a hillside north of Athens from lack of fuel.

Three of four individuals facing charges made a brief appearance before a local magistrate on Thursday, as dozens of relatives clad in black held pictures of young couples and children who were victims of the disaster. The case was adjourned to April because the fourth defendant is ill.

"We have been waiting for justice for more than three years," said Nicolas Yasoumis, a spokesman for the relatives.

"It won't bring them back, but we hope that there will be exemplary punishment," he said.

The individuals have not yet entered a plea and, if convicted, they face maximum penalties of life in jail. REUTERS

Iran hits out at Obama administration

UN Iran went on the offensive against the Obama administration Thursday, accusing Washington's new UN ambassador of making the "same tired" accusations against Iran as the Bush administration.

In a speech to the Security Council during a session on Iraq, U.S. envoy Susan Rice reiterated charges of Iranian support for terrorism and attempts to develop nuclear weapons, saying the United States sought an end to both policies.

"It is unfortunate that, yet again, we are hearing the same tired, unwarranted and groundless allegations that used to be unjustifiably and futilely repeated by the previous administration," Iran's envoy Mohammad Khazaee said in a letter to the council's president, Japanese Ambassador Yukio Takasu.

"Instead of raising allegations against others, the United States had better take concrete and meaningful steps in correcting its past wrong policies and practices vis-a-vis other nations, including the Islamic Republic of Iran."

Khazaee's remarks were among the most critical of the new U.S. administration by a senior Iranian official. Iran is not in the Security Council and no Iranian official attended the meeting at which Rice spoke.

The comments on Iran by Rice, who sits in the cabinet of U.S. President Barack Obama, were made during a periodic Security Council review of UN activities in Iraq. U.S. policy "will seek an end to Iran's ambition to acquire an illicit nuclear capacity and its support for terrorism," Rice said. REUTERS

News in brief

MEDICINE A drug being developed by Acorda Therapeutics Inc. helps some people with multiple sclerosis walk better, U.S. researchers said Thursday. Thirty-five per cent of MS patients who previously had difficulty were able to improve their walking speed after taking fampridine. REUTERS

Argentina president blasts CIA

POLITICS Argentina Thursday blasted the head of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency for saying the country, along with Ecuador and Venezuela, could be pushed into instability by the global economic crisis.

Lumping Argentina together with Ecuador and Venezuela, both led by leftist anti-Washington firebrands, raises concern in that South American country, where centre-left President Cristina Kirchner is trying to keep the economy from stagnating. REUTERS

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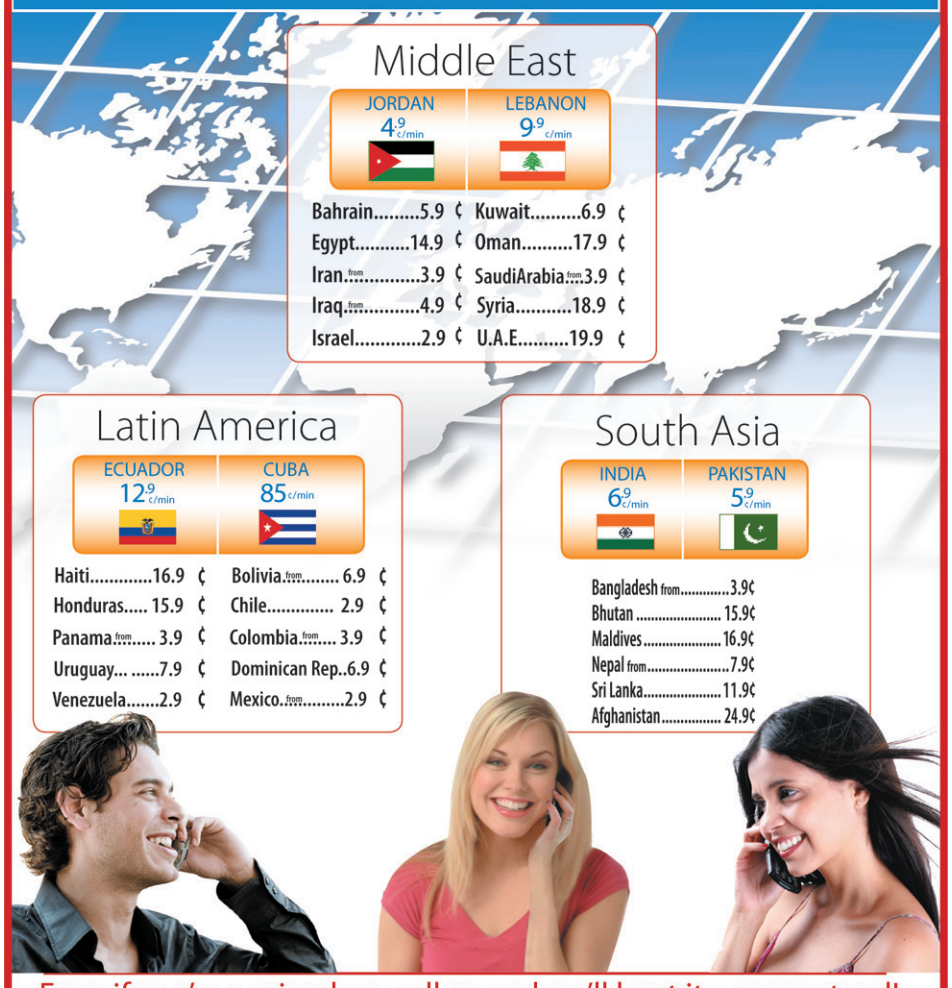

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The trouble with fake guns

Marketplace

"Get your wallets, or I'll shoot her!" yelled the gunman, as he put his weapon to Pat Johnson's head. He'd just walked into the antique store she manages in Vancouver's swanky Shaughnessy district.

When he turned away, some colleagues tackled him to the ground, sending his weapon flying. But the gunman's arrest wasn't the end of the story. When officers picked up the gun for evidence, they learned it was an imitation — a BB gun, made to look just like the real thing.

Of course, that didn't make it any less traumatic for Johnson. "A gun's a gun," she says. "And we were all terrified."

And it seems, that's what criminals are learning, too. Police across Canada say fake guns that look real are being used in more and more crimes. They're used in car-jackings, bank robberies and convenience store holdups, too.

And realistic-looking guns are causing problems in schools. In Toronto, there have recently been more incidents involving fake guns than the real thing.

So what's the attraction? Well, for one, young people tell us it's fun to shoot a BB gun that looks just like a cop's. And these fakes are easy to buy. In most parts of Canada, there are no age requirements around who can buy a realistic-looking gun.

Manufacturers sure know the appeal of real-looking fakes — they're making buckets of money, by getting licensing agreements from the real gun manufacturers to make theirs as real as possible.

And criminals know that it's perfectly legal to carry a real-looking gun, and no permit's required to get one.

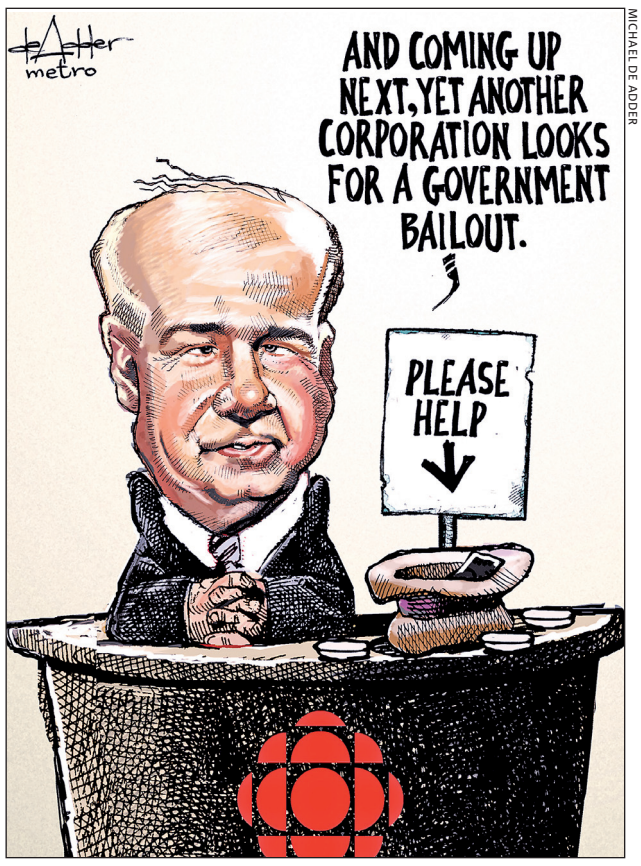
For the cops? It all spells big trouble. When they get a "gun call," they respond as though the person — young or old — is carrying a real gun. In Canada, that's led to unnecessary shootings and fatalities.

Over the years, numerous coroner's juries, and police at all levels have called on the federal government to tighten up the laws when it comes to these fake guns. Some cops want the imitations banned. Others want a "must be 18 to buy and possess" law. And others say you should have to have a licence to buy a gun that looks like the real deal.

The federal government says it's looking at the issue — a "working group" was struck two years ago.

While we wait for its recommendations, store manager Pat Johnson has installed tighter security at her shop, so now any "customers" have to be buzzed in.

Erica Johnson is a journalist and co-host of CBC News: Marketplace, Canada's award-winning consumer affairs show. CBC News: Marketplace airs each Friday night at 8:30 p.m. (9 p.m. NT) on CBC Television.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

Punishment fails to fit the crime

UrbanCompass

Crime and punishment are big news these days.

Wonder why. Maybe it has something to do with the wave of lawlessness spreading across the city.

The stats are hair-raising: Eighteen people gunned down since the beginning of the year, at least eight of them in gangland shootouts. In one bizarre variation on the theme, two guys fell out of windows to their deaths in the same week — on the same street!

Crime appears to be out of control, but punishment? That's another story.

B.C. attorney general Wally Oppal likes to talk about his report proving conclusively that B.C. judges are no more lenient than their counterparts in other jurisdictions. The only problem is that other jurisdictions aren't Colombia North. Vancouver is the drug capital of Canada and that makes it the gangland capital of Canada. And all the bullets flying around indicate that the criminal "justice" system is not equipped to deal with it.

As the body count mounts, the politicians are emerging from their long winter's nap. As I write, the federal Tories have just introduced a bill that — if passed — will require mandatory life sentences for gangland murders. The B.C. government has appointed a "Crime Czar," former deputy solicitor general David Morhart, who is now responsible for gangland crime in B.C. Lucky guy.

These light sentences send the message that life is cheap. That's not the only thing wrong with our justice system, but it is the virus that drives the epidemic.

For those of us who have to live here and avoid getting caught in the crossfire, is this too little, too late? For too long now, the punishment has failed to fit the crime. In December, for example, some guy named Sasan Ansari was given a five-year sentence for stabbing his buddy 30 times over an unpaid debt. His defence? At the time, he was in a "dissociative state," which produces unconscious, involuntary behaviour. Yeah, right. What's "involuntary" about bringing a knife to the meeting, and then getting rid of it and cleaning up your car after the stabbing?

If this were unusual, we could let it pass. But the average sentence for manslaughter in this province is three to four years. And manslaughter seems to be the plea bargain of choice for accused killers. With time off for good behaviour, you're back in the "hood" in no time.

These light sentences send the message that life is cheap. That's not the only thing wrong with our justice system, but it is the virus that drives the epidemic. Ottawa's move to attach life sentences to gangland murders is a start, but we have a long way to go before the scales are back in balance.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting.

Worth mentioning

Spit study offers health insight

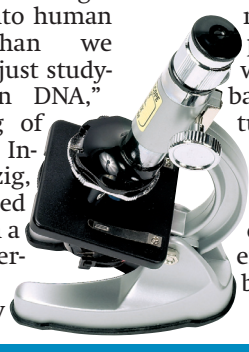
Bacteria found in people's spit does not vary much around the world, a surprising finding that could provide insights into how diet and cultural factors affect human health, researchers said Thursday.

Because the human body harbours 10 times more bacterial cells than human cells, scientists are trying to understand more about the bacteria we carry.

The human mouth is a major gateway for bacteria into the body and it contains a diverse array of microbial species.

Yet scientists know little about this diversity and how it relates to diet, environment, health and disease, they added.

"We are interested in this because by studying the bacteria we can get more insights into human populations than we would get from just studying the human DNA," Mark Stoneking of the Max Planck Institute in Leipzig, Germany, who led the study, said in a telephone interview.



In their study published in Genome Research, the team sequenced bacteria found in saliva samples taken from 120 healthy volunteers from North America, South America, Western Europe, Eastern Europe, Africa and Asia.

Not surprisingly, they observed considerable diversity of bacterial life in the overall saliva microbiome, both within and between individuals.

But when comparing samples from different geographic areas they found not much variation, suggesting that bacteria within the mouth of a person's neighbour is likely to be just as different as someone on the other side of the world.

The findings could help better understand human migrations and populations as well as provide background for future studies looking at the influence of diet, cultural factors and disease on differences in saliva bacteria.

REUTERS

It's your turn to tell others what you think. Email your thoughts and opinions to: vancouverletters@metronews.ca
Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

CBC says it may cut some services
Cash-strapped CBC said Thursday it would look at reducing some services in its new fiscal year, starting April 1, including "downgrading" or selling some TV or radio services. The CBC says it is facing an advertising revenue shortfall of up to $65 million. REUTERS

Business

DOLLAR
0.09¢ | C$ 79.80¢ US | US$ $1.2532

OIL
$45.22 US | $2.72

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Banks exceed first-quarter forecasts

Three of Canada's largest banks reported quarterly profits Thursday that were hit hard by market-related charges, but their shares rallied as underlying results excluding one-time items beat street expectations.

Royal Bank of Canada, the country's biggest lender, posted a 15 per cent drop in quarterly profit as writedowns related to seized-up credit markets and other items cut earnings by $646 million.

Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce said it returned to profit in its first quarter, even as it was hit by $1.36 a share in losses, including a $708 million loss tied to structured credit activities.

National Bank of Canada said its first-quarter profit fell 73 per cent as it took charges of $184 million related to the asset-backed commercial paper market, another victim of the global credit crunch.

Toronto-Dominion Bank kicked off Canada's bank reporting season Wednesday with stronger-than-expected results that boosted its stock and shares of other banks.

Shares of yesterday's three reporting banks rallied, with Royal rising 4.8 per cent to $31.43. CIBC rose 3.9 per cent to $44.97 and National Bank rose 6.4 per cent to $36.56. As a result, the bank-heavy financials index on the Toronto Stock Exchange rose more than five per cent and helped drive the broader market higher.

REUTERS

Executive pay

- National Bank of Canada, RBC and CIBC have agreed to give shareholders a say in determining what top executives get paid, a move that comes amid growing global anger about big pay for bankers.

Torstar posts net loss, CEO to step down

PUBLISHING Torstar Corp. shares sank almost 10 per cent Thursday as the book and newspaper publisher posted a quarterly loss and said chief executive Robert Prichard was stepping down as the company fights to contain costs in a weakening economy.

The company, which also slashed its dividend and warned of further job cuts, said chief financial officer David Holland would become interim CEO.

Torstar reported a net loss of $211.2 million in the fourth quarter, or $2.68 a share, compared with a net income of $47.2 million, or 60 cents a share, a year earlier.

Excluding items, it earned 23 Canadian cents a share.

Torstar publishes several daily and weekly papers in Ontario, and is a partner in six of Canada's seven Metro newspapers.

REUTERS

† Limited time offer. Rate subject to change. See branch for full details. ‡Protection provided by the Credit Union Deposit Insurance Corporation of British Columbia.

ADAM IHSE/REUTERS
Demonstrators in Trollhaattan, Sweden, protest against the threat of job cuts at the SAAB factory, a unit of General Motors.

GM reports $31B loss for '08

AUTOS General Motors Corp. posted a loss of nearly $31 billion US Thursday for 2008 and said its auditors were likely to cast doubt on its viability as it seeks an expanded federal bailout to stay afloat.

Revenue plunged by more than a third to $30.8 billion. GM burned through more than $5 billion in the fourth quarter and ended the year with $14 billion in cash, including the first $4 billion in loans it received from the U.S. Treasury.

The automaker, which asked for up to $30 billion of U.S. government aid, also warned its pension plans were underfunded by about $12.4 billion as of the end of 2008, raising the risk of a greater funding gap in the years ahead.

The grim results came on the same day that GM chief executive Rick Wagoner and other senior executives were scheduled to meet with members of the autos task force headed by U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner and White House economic adviser Larry Summers.

"They are in fact-gathering mode right now, and so we are here in order to respond to their questions," said GM chief financial officer Ray Young.

"This is not a negotiation session by any means. They are going to ... continue to ask for clarifications in terms of our submissions." REUTERS

Deepest loss

- GM's loss was the deepest among Detroit-based automakers in 2008 as industry-wide auto sales dropped to 16-year lows. Ford lost $14.6 billion US, while Chrysler lost $8 billion.

Biovail results top analyst expectations

DRUGS Biovail Corp. reported quarterly results that topped analyst expectations Thursday and said it is taking seriously a move by company founder Eugene Melnyk to nominate new members to the board and change some corporate governance provisions.

Biovail earned $120.4 million, or 76 cents a share, during the quarter, compared with a loss of $32 million, or 20 cents a share, for the same period a year earlier.

Last year the company announced plans to narrow the number of treatments it offers, and it plans to spend $600 million through to 2012 on research and development of new treatments for central nervous system disorders.

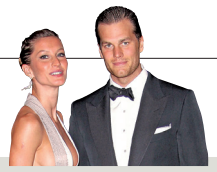
That spurred Melnyk to launch a proxy battle that ended last August when shareholders approved the company's incumbent slate of directors rather than an alternative slate proposed by Melnyk.

Melnyk revisited that fight earlier this week when he requested a special meeting of shareholders to vote on his two board nominees and on corporate governance changes. REUTERS

In brief

SECURITY The budget proposed by President Barack Obama includes substantial funding aimed at improving the security of U.S. private and public computer networks, fuelling a growing market for U.S. defence and information technology contractors.

REUTERS



Brady marries Bundchen

Brazilian model Gisele Bundchen married National Football League star Tom Brady in a Los Angeles suburb Thursday, Us Weekly reports. Bundchen, 28, has been dating the 31-year-old New England Patriots quarterback since 2006. **REUTERS**

Sports

"I'm Madonna's fan. I was hoping she'd show up."

U.S. World Baseball Classic manager Davey Johnson, on how he hoped Alex Rodriguez would play for the U.S. rather than the Dominican Republic in the upcoming tournament. On Thursday, Rodriguez was told by the New York Yankees to keep his cousin Yuri Sucart away from ballparks. Rodriguez previously identified Sucart as the cousin who provided him with performance-enhancing drugs. After Wednesday's Grapefruit League game against Toronto, Sucart was seen picking up Rodriguez from Dunedin Stadium in an SUV. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

Crossing the age barrier

ANDREA WOO
for Metro Canada

Aleisha Cline's response to the question of how she juggles being both a mother to two small children and an Olympic athlete isn't too surprising.

"Oh God," said the Calgary-born, Kelowna-raised ski cross champion with a laugh. "That's not easy. (I get) a lot of support from the family, because there's no way that I could do it otherwise."

Cline, who currently lives in Whistler with her husband and children, has inspired many by not only balancing the two, but by doing so at 38. In comparison, her youngest teammates on the Canadian ski cross team are only 19.

38-year old Aleisha Cline will compete in the 2010 Games.

"Hopefully I can be an inspiration and a role model to other women my age with a couple of kids," she said. "Most women out there think, 'Oh my god, I have two kids. My life is over.'"

Cline has four gold medals, and one silver, from the X Games.

On Feb. 6, she added another gold medal to her collection after coming in first at the World Cup competition at Cypress Mountain in West Vancouver, winning all of her four races while hometown friends cheered her on.

Having acquired a taste for the precious yellow metal, she hopes to chomp her teeth into it once again at the 2010 Winter Games, when ski cross will be an Olympic sport for the first time.

"It's so neat to be able to ski and race and show my friends and family what I do when I'm gone," she said.

"You can send emails and photos and tell them about the course, but you really don't get a good feel of it until you get to see it."

Online

- Keep up with Aleisha's season and progress on her blog at aleishacline.com.

"Most women out there think, 'Oh my god, I have two kids. My life is over'"
Aleisha Cline

Watching the future

The Vancouver Canucks don't have a bushel of up-and-coming prospects, but they do boast one bona fide star-in-waiting in the system.

That, of course, would be centre Cody Hodgson, the captain of the Brampton Battalion (OHL) and a key player on Canada's gold medal-winning entry at the 2009 World Junior Championship. Drafted 18th overall last June, the offensively skilled Hodgson nearly made the Canucks out of training camp before being sent back to junior.

Hodgson, in fact, is ranked No. 2 among all NHL-affiliated prospects in The Hockey News' annual *Future Watch '09*, which is available on newsstands March 9. The publication ranks the league's top 75 prospects — Columbus Blue Jackets hopeful Nikita Filatov came in at No. 1 — and also highlights each NHL team's top 10, according to input from more than 20 GMs, scouts and player-personnel directors.

Goalie Cory Schneider, who got a taste with the Canucks when Roberto Luongo went down earlier this season, was the only other Vancouver prodigy to crack the top 75; Schneider came in at No. 26, an improvement on his No.75 standing in *Future Watch '08*. However, with only two highly-rated prospects, Vancouver ranks 24th out of the NHL's 30 teams with a grade of C; last year, the Canucks earned a C-plus and came in at No. 18.

So, how did Vancouver add Hodgson, yet tumble down the Future Watch rankings?

TheHockeyNews

Sam McCaig

thehockeynews.com

For starters, a couple of players who were prospects last year — namely, forwards Mason Raymond (No. 28 overall in FW'08) and Jannik Hansen (Vancouver's No. 4-rated prospect in FW'08) — have made the jump to full-time NHLers; they are no longer eligible for Future Watch consideration. Plus, there's the tragic case of Luc Bourdon, the highly-regarded defenceman who died in a motorcycle accident last summer. Bourdon was Vancouver's top-rated prospect in FW'08, and ranked No. 20 overall. Big, skilled and mobile, he had all the tools to be a top-flight blueliner in the NHL, and was just starting to put it all together.

Finally, the Canucks had an under-22 player on their NHL roster last season — defenceman Alexander Edler — and such players are also taken into consideration when figuring out Future Watch team rankings.

This season, the Canucks are one of six NHL teams without an under-22 player on their regular roster.

The Hockey News
thn.com

Sports in brief

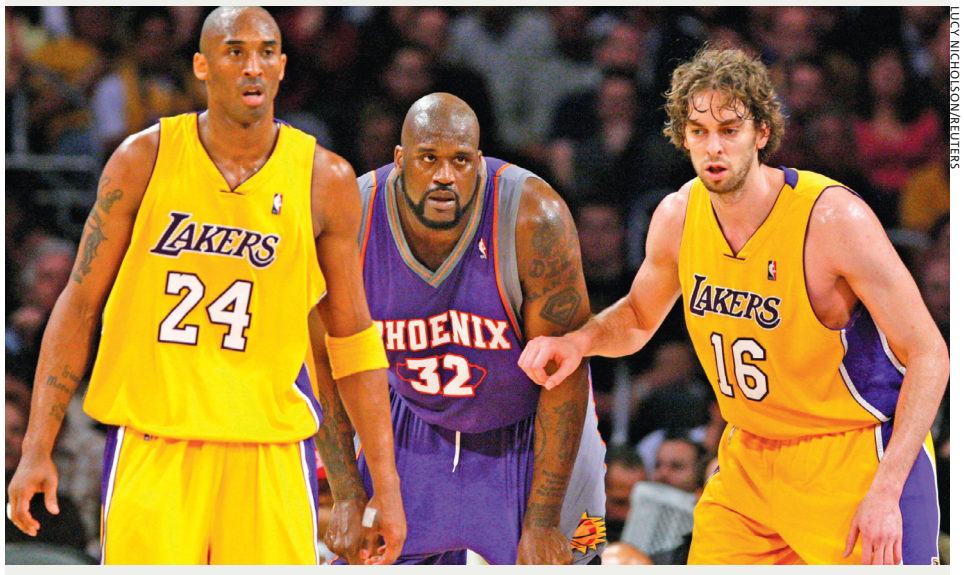
MLB North Vancouver native Scott Richmond pitched two shutout innings in a 6-2 win over the Philadelphia Phillies in Clearwater, Fla., Thursday, helping earn the Toronto Blue Jays their first Grapefruit League win of the spring.

NHL The Montreal Canadiens acquired defenceman Doug Janik Thursday from the Dallas Stars in exchange for forward Steve Begin. Janik has spent the majority of the season in the AHL.

NHL The Pittsburgh Penguins traded blue-liner Ryan Whitney to the Anaheim Ducks Thursday for forward Chris Kunitz and prospect Eric Tangradi.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

NBA Shaq back in Los Angeles



LUCY NICHOLSON/REUTERS

Los Angeles Lakers Kobe Bryant and Pau Gasol of Spain guard Phoenix Suns centre Shaquille O'Neal Thursday in Los Angeles, where O'Neal and Bryant led the Lakers to three consecutive NBA championships from 2000 to 2002. The Lakers ended up dowing the Suns 132-106.

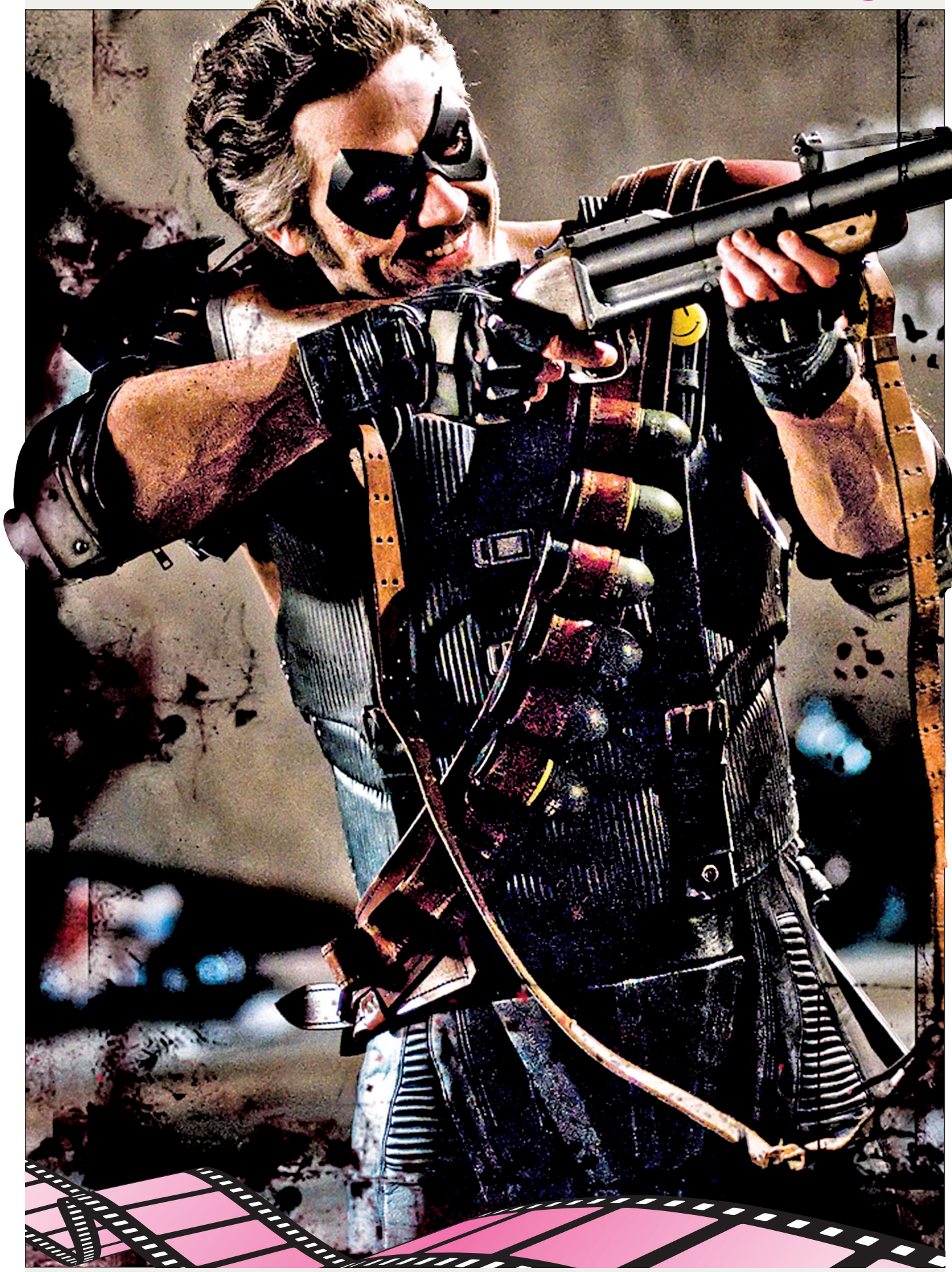
Visit metronews.ca/movies to get showtimes, watch trailers and read reviews.

Movies&Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Movies

The unknown Watchmen Pg 16



When it came to filling the boots of The Watchmen's various superheroes, director Zack Snyder took some potentially commercially ruinous risks — casting a lot of actors that are relatively unknown to Hollywood's big blockbuster films.

movies Pg 18

Jonas Brothers 3-D flick strictly for little tween girls.

music Pg 21

Grammy-nominated Sara Bareilles shares her Voice.

television Pg 22

Tom Green promises a wild Celebrity Apprentice season.

7th heaven Pg 23

Is it any shock that this beauty makes our hot list?

Blanchett joins Robin Hood

Cate Blanchett is to play Maid Marian opposite Russell Crowe's Robin Hood in a new movie about the medieval hero. The Curious Case of Benjamin Button star will replace Sienna Miller in the epic, which will be directed by Ridley Scott. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Movies

A CLASSIC; EXCELLENT; GOOD; FAIR; POOR

Behind the masks

Director Snyder avoids big names in Watchmen

CHRIS ALEXANDER
for Metro Canada

When it came time to fill the platform boots of Watchmen's various morally ambiguous superheroes, director Zack Snyder took some potentially commercially ruinous risks.

Big names like Tom Cruise had been long bandied about, but that level of baggage-bringing star power didn't sit well with the controversial filmmaker, so instead, he opted to cast a slew of critically celebrated but lesser known artists.

This meant bringing actors to the fold who weren't known for donning latex tights and navigating tricky special effects; people like Billy Crudup (Almost Famous), Oscar-nominated former child star Jackie Earle Haley (Little Children), Matthew Goode (Match Point), Patrick Wilson (Hard Candy) and Malin Akerman (The Heartbreak Kid).

Not exactly the roster you expect for a comic book film, but then again, dismissing Alan Moore's revered graphic novel as just a comic book is like calling Crime and Punishment a thriller. "None of us wanted to veer too far away from the source material, because it's perfect as it was," says Akerman, who plays the central role of Laurie, a.k.a. Silk Spectre II.

Graphic novel Watchmen's reluctant superheroes come to life on the silver screen next Friday.

The more or less faithfully adapted film — it opens next Friday — sees a battered, bizarre version of mid-'80s America, still in the grip of the Cold War and littered with masked vigilantes whose personal and social problems leak out into their crime fighting work.

"These are people who are convinced they are doing the right thing," says Haley, who plays the film's most unbalanced character, the mask-and-fedora wearing Rorschach. "Rorschach is a product of his childhood, his upbringing and even though he's psychotic, he's not a bad person."

Movie **feature**

One of the pivotal figures in Watchmen is the not-quite-human Dr. Manhattan, a former scientist who gets disintegrated in a lab mishap only to re-particalize as a blue tinted, physically anamorphous superman.

And while that description doesn't seem much like the handsome, unassuming Billy Crudup, with the aid of special effects, he had little trouble filling Manhattan's supernatural shoes. "I've had people ask me how much of the performance is me," says the actor of his digitally tweaked turn. "It was basically all mine. Sure, there was this puppet version of me in the computer, an exact replica of me that's a different hue, but I was wired to it and had complete control of every facial tick and physical nuance."

But while Haley may focus on the less negative psychological aspects of the Watchmen, co-star Jeffrey Dean Morgan, who plays the effortlessly homicidal Comedian, has a different take.

"If these guys weren't on the streets trying to save people, they'd all be in prison ... or worse," Morgan says.

Balaban's Week of grand Canadiana

ROBYN YOUNG
for Metro Canada

FEATURE One week after wrapping production of Canadian film One Week, Liane Balaban jetted off to London to play Dustin Hoffman's daughter in Last Chance Harvey.

She went from the campy directorial stylings of Michael McGowan straight to the glitz and glamour of a big Hollywood production. But the funny thing, said the 28-year-old with a laugh, was that Last Chance Harvey was Hoffman's low-budget project.

"They had T-shirts made up that said LCH (Last Chance Harvey) LBF (Low Budget Film)," said Balaban, who first appeared on the Canadian movie scene in 1999's New Waterford Girl.

She played 15-year-old Mooney Pottie in the critically acclaimed film about a young girl stifled by her upbringing in a small, Cape Breton coal-mining town.

Since then, she's acted in a range of productions including Definitely, Maybe with Ryan Reynolds; Happy Here and Now with David Arquette; and she just completed filming Coach with Hugh Dancy.

At the same time, she's held tight to her Canadian roots, finishing a political science degree at Concordia University, studying journalism at Ryerson and residing — for the most part — in Montreal with her fiancé, author and journalist Adam Gollner.

In One Week, Balaban plays Samantha Pierce, the fiancée of Ben Taylor (Joshua Jackson), who is diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer and given little time to live. The Dawson's Creek star's character spontaneously buys an $8,000 motorcycle and begins a journey across Canada before giving in to his illness and inevitable treatment.

"I was so impressed that such a tiny film was able to capture so much of the grandeur of Canada."
Liane Balaban

What struck Balaban most about the film was that so much came out of such little time and financing. "I was so impressed that such a tiny film was able to capture so much of the grandeur of Canada," she said.

And that it does. From Toronto's congested Gardiner Expressway and magnificent skyscrapers, to breathtaking views of Banff's snow capped peaks, the film takes full advantage of the country's aesthetic strengths.

A proud Canadian, Balaban hopes to see the little film that could do well in the box office. "One Week is a tiny film with a huge heart and a gigantic spirit," she said.

Perhaps, with its seize-the-day sensibilities and hilarious focus on the country's bizarre collection of "world's biggest" statues, along with the heart wrenching tale of a young man grappling with his own mortality, One Week will be a force to be reckoned with, just as New Waterford Girl came to be a decade ago.

And Balaban, who said she's just recently come into her own sense of acceptance that she is and wants to be an actor, will be right there cheering it on.

• One Week opens in theatres March 6.

Joshua Jackson and Liane Balaban star in One Week.

Total Recall remake planned
Columbia Pictures has announced plans to remake Total Recall. The studio is set to team up with producer Neal Moritz's Original Films to remake the Arnold Schwarzenegger sci-fi actioner ... despite the fact that it's just 19 years old. IMDB.COM

Movies

A CLASSIC; EXCELLENT; GOOD; FAIR; POOR

Video game films have evolved

InFocus

Richard Crouse
mrchaos33@hotmail.com

Interpol cop Charlie Nash (Chris Klein) takes aim at a powerful crime boss he's been tracking all over the world in the film version of the popular video game Street Fighter.

If someone told my 13-year-old self that Hollywood was going to make a film out of my favourite video game I would have been perplexed. I loved Pong, but couldn't imagine that it would make an exciting movie. Tetris maybe, but not Pong.

Times and technology certainly have changed. The prehistoric blips of light that characterized the video games I played have been replaced by games with storylines and three-dimensional characters called avatars. With improved quality came a proliferation of video game movies like this weekend's Street Fighter: The Legend of Chun-Li.

Video game movies get a bad rap — critic Nick Schager called House of the Dead an "astonishingly idiotic piece of entertainment"— but not all of them are, as another critic said, "as bad as getting your eyelid caught on a nail."

The first video game movie was 1982's TRON, about a hacker abducted into computer world. While it wasn't directly inspired by a game storyline, the idea came when director Steve Lisberger played my beloved Pong.

"I realized that there were these techniques that would be very suitable for bringing video games and computer visuals to the screen," he said. "And that was the moment the whole concept flashed across my mind."

Since then dozens of games have made the leap to the big screen. Mortal Kombat (released in 1995) only scores 24 per cent on Rotten Tomatoes but this Christopher Lambert movie about three martial artists whose skills will decide the fate of the world topped the box office for three weeks, features lots of great cheesy dialogue like, "You can look into my soul, but you don't own it," and has some good fight scenes.

Brotherhood of the Wolf director Christophe Gans and Oscar winner Roger Avary transformed the Konami Silent Hill game into an effective Grand Guignol shockfest. Avary's script kept the game's theme of survival while adding a story about a woman's somnambulistic daughter who gets lost in a ghost town called Silent Hill. Gans top loads the film with so many surreal images Roger Ebert said it looks "more like an experimental art film than a horror film," but the result is a strangely unsettling thriller.

Hardcore gamers will have already seen those adaptations, but fear not, there are some interesting sounding movies on the way. 28 Days Later scribe Alex Garland is penning Halo, and Tom 'The Sum of All Fears' Clancy is involved in bring Splinter Cell to the big screen.

Now if only we could pair my favourite filmmaker with my other favorite video game. Imagine: Martin Scorsese's Tetris!

• Read Metro on Monday for a review of Street Fighter.

On the web

• Visit metronews.ca/movies for a trailer and screen times for Street Fighter: The Legend of Chun-Li.

Richard Crouse's Movie Show can be seen every Sunday at 6:30 pm on the E! Channel.

Che as epic as it gets

Che
Director: Steve Soderbergh
Stars: Benicio Del Toro, Catalina Sandino Morenao
Classification: STC
Rating:

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

Benicio Del Toro plays the iconic Che Guevara in Che.

REVIEW Arguably the most divisive movie of the 2008 festival circuit, Che arrives in Vancouver in the format the filmmakers originally intended. This special "roadshow" edition of Che is the full 4.5-hour beast unleashed on audiences with only a brief intermission to curb the butt-numbing.

Although the epic cinematic experience will knock a day out of your life, this is really the only way to fully appreciate Steven Soderbergh and Benicio Del Toro's impressive work. Che is a biopic mercifully free of cliché, telling the story of the world's most infamous T-shirt icon in a manner befitting of his incredible achievements and tragic failures.

The first half of the film gives audiences the Che Guevara movie they'd expect. Filmed in vibrant colours and rich monochromatic black and white, the first chapter tells the story of Guevara's triumphant involvement in the Cuban revolution.

Soderbergh's handheld cameras go deep into the jungle to show the day-to-day struggles Guevara encountered leading his revolutionary army intercut with faux-newsreel footage of Che's infamous speech to the UN following the victory. It's an inspiring film that will leave the audience smiling at the break.

When they return, Soderbergh starts shooting the second chapter in drained colours and a less flamboyant style, making it clear from the first frame that something is very wrong. The second half then follows Guevera's failed attempt to bring the revolution to Bolivia, leading to a tragic finale.

The two halves of the film play off each other wonderfully. Soderbergh expertly toys with audience expectations without ever becoming manipulative. Though the culminative experience of watching two feature films is undeniably exhausting, that's actually part of the point.

You'll feel like you've gone through Che's epic journey at the end rather than simply watching a highlight reel of his life. Unfortunately, it's a cinematic experience that will clash with contemporary ADD big screen entertainment, but one that should have a long and healthy life on DVD.

Weir returns with WWII epic

Peter Weir has broken his six-year film dormancy by kicking off principal photography on his next project, the Second World War Siberian exile epic, The Way Back. The film stars Colin Farrell and Jim Sturgess. **EMPIREONLINE.COM**

Reel Time

A CLASSIC; EXCELLENT; GOOD; FAIR; POOR

Jonas strictly for tweens

Jonas Brothers: **The 3-D Concert Experience**

Director: Bruce Hendricks
Stars: Joe Jonas. Nick Jonas
Classification: G
Rating:

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

A scene from Jonas Brothers: The 3-D Concert Experience.

Do you know that TV ad where a thirtysomething guy is asked if he wants to experience something "youthful"?

You know the one — suddenly the slackjawed chap slips into some surreal flashback set to bad pop music only to snap out of it and pronounce he'll stick with his Diet Pepsi. Well, unless you're a 12-year-old girl, watching Jonas Brothers: The 3-D Concert Experience is a bit like that.

Even at 76 minutes, this concert film starring today's hottest Disney-mined pop act is a pretty laboured sit for anyone who doesn't appreciate the unbridled adulation of youthful screaming in their ears or bland, indistinctive pop songs that blend into each other like soft cheese melting in a fondue pot.

Directed by Bruce Hendricks (who successfully put the same treatment on a Miley Cyrus concert last year), this film mixes the boys' stage performance (who are more interesting when they're practising gymnastics on stage than performing music) with random backstage antics — which seem almost as choreographed as the cookie-cutter concert.

Even the 3-D isn't used as effectively as it could be. Sure, every so often a guitar pick is thrown in your face but even that had to be enhanced by computer effects.

Then again, it doesn't really matter what I say — this movie wasn't made for me. It's for the thousands of energetic tweens that plaster their bedroom walls with Joe Jonas posters. For those girls, the trio's non-threatening stage swagger and duets with fellow teen idols Demi Lovato and Taylor Swift will be completely gratifying.

As for accompanying parents, well, I say enjoy it too. In about two more years, that little darling might be listening to Marilyn Manson.

On the web

- Visit metronews.ca/movies for images from Jonas Brothers: The 3-D Concert Experience and for local screen times.

NeverEnding Story up for reboot

FANTASY The NeverEnding Story might keep going.

Warner Bros. and a pair of top-tier production companies are in the early stages of a reboot of the 1984 children's fantasy classic.

The Kennedy/Marshall Co., whose credits include The Curious Case of Benjamin Button, and Leonard DiCaprio's Appian Way are in discussions with Warners about reviving the 25-year-old franchise. The studio recently acquired rights to the property, clearing the way for a potential remake.

Based on a German-language novel by Michael Ende, the film centres on a boy named Bastian Balthazar Bux who discovers a parallel world in a book titled The NeverEnding Story. As the boy, a loner, delves deeper into the book, he increasingly finds his life intertwined with the plot of the novel, in which a hero in the land of Fantasia must save the universe on behalf of an empress.

The new movie will put a modern spin on the material by examining the more nuanced details of the book that were glossed over in the first feature.

Wolfgang Petersen directed the 1984 film, which earned a respectable $20 million for Warners. The film has had a long life on home video and an even larger influence on popular culture. **REUTERS**

In brief

RELEASE Harry has a final date with film destiny: Warner Bros. will open the eighth film in its Potter franchise — Harry Potter and the Deathly Hollows: Part II — on July 15, 2011. The studio decided to split the final book in the Potter series into two movies because of the tome's length. On Wednesday Warners also announced that is has postponed the release of its holiday feature Sherlock Holmes to Dec. 25 from Nov. 1. **REUTERS**

Cannes fest honours Clint Eastwood

Clint Eastwood paid homage to French cinema after the Cannes Film Festival gave a special lifetime achievement award to the evergreen Hollywood legend, who is presenting his latest film at the age of 78.

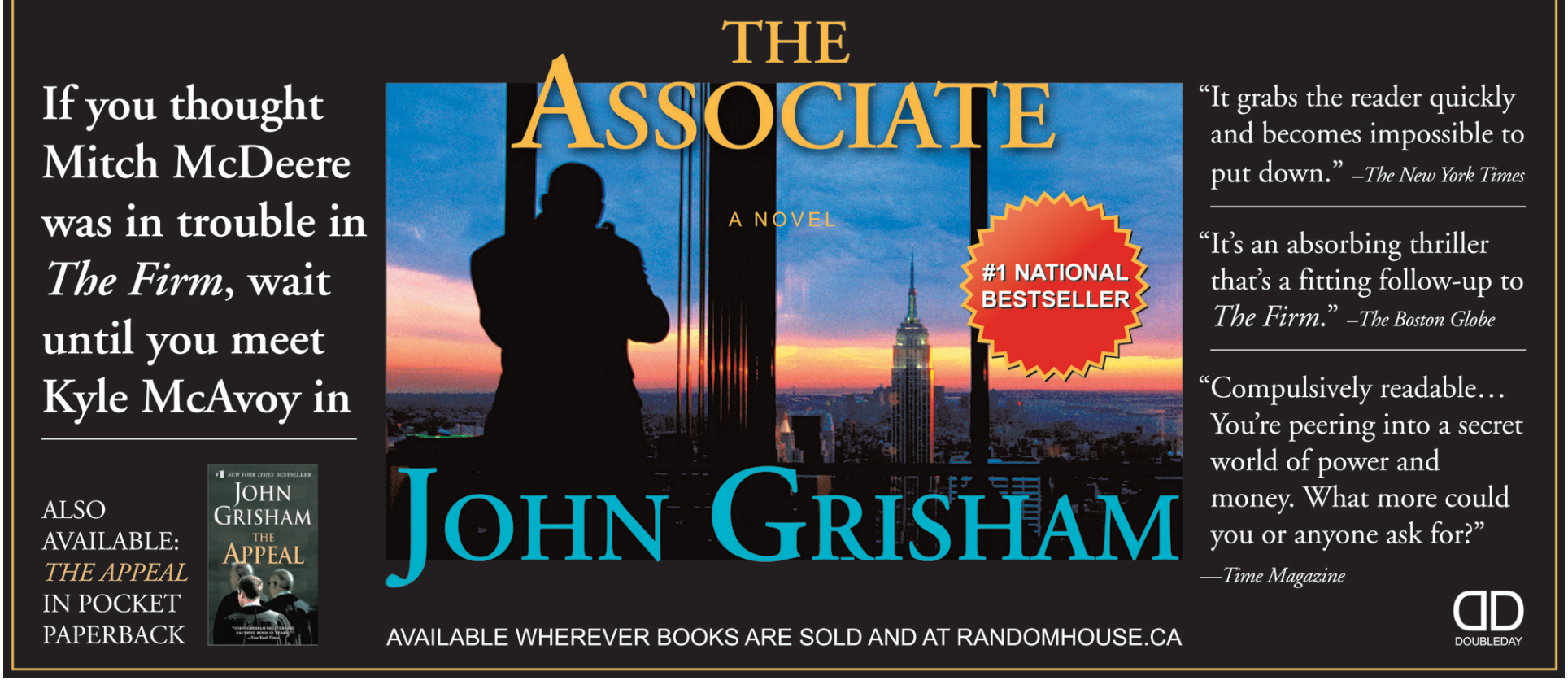
"France's cineastes here in this country have always been very supportive of me all along the way," he told reporters after a ceremony late on Wednesday in a chic restaurant off the Champs-Elysees. "I'm very lucky to have known all of you."

The world's biggest film festival gave a special Golden Palm award to Eastwood, whose film Changeling starring Angelina Jolie was shown at Cannes last year.

The film failed to win one of the major prizes but Cannes President Gilles Jacob said the festival had long wanted to present a special award to Eastwood.

"With this highly symbolic gesture, the festival is matching the unanimous enthusiasm that both the public and critics have for you," Jacob said. "It sometimes happens that someone is a great artist and a frenzied egotist. That is not the case with you."

France maintains a complex love-hate relationship with Hollywood. But Eastwood has been revered for his roles as the taciturn gunman of Sergio Leone's 1960s spaghetti westerns, the hardboiled detective Dirty Harry and in more sympathetic roles such as the repentant gunslinger in Unforgiven. **REUTERS**



PETA goes after bear hunting
PETA has released a promotional piece featuring Battlestar Galactica's Jamie Bamber — naked from the obliques up — to shed light on the cruelty of black-bear hunting. The ad simply reads, "Bare Skin, Not Bearskin." **TVGUIDE.COM**

Reel Time

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Movie **morsels**

Confessions of a Shopaholic
●●½

REVIEW Confessions of a Shopaholic doesn't disappoint as a fluffy chick flick with a bit of a message that may be perfectly in time with the global recession. But leave your credit cards at home when you go see it. It takes some willpower to avoid the temptation to shop after being inundated with fashion eye candy for just under two hours.
Robyn Young/Metro Canada

Coraline
●●●½

REVIEW Based on a popular novel by accomplished author Neil Gaiman, Coraline is, if nothing else, a breath of fresh air in the genre of family fare. Masterfully styled in the classic gothic look mastered by its director Henry Selick in The Nightmare Before Christmas, Coraline (voiced by Dakota Fanning) is a bored young girl who discovers a mysterious door that leads to alternate universe.
Steve Gow/Metro Canada

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button
●●●

REVIEW Based on a tale by F. Scott Fitzgerald, Button tells the life story of a man who is born with the physicality of an 80-year-old but mysteriously ages in reverse meeting impossible challenges along the way. If that vaguely sounds a bit Forrest Gumpish, don't be surprised — Gump's Eric Roth penned this human epic too. Brad Pitt definitely gives the best performance of his career.
Steve Gow/Metro Canada

Friday the 13th
●●

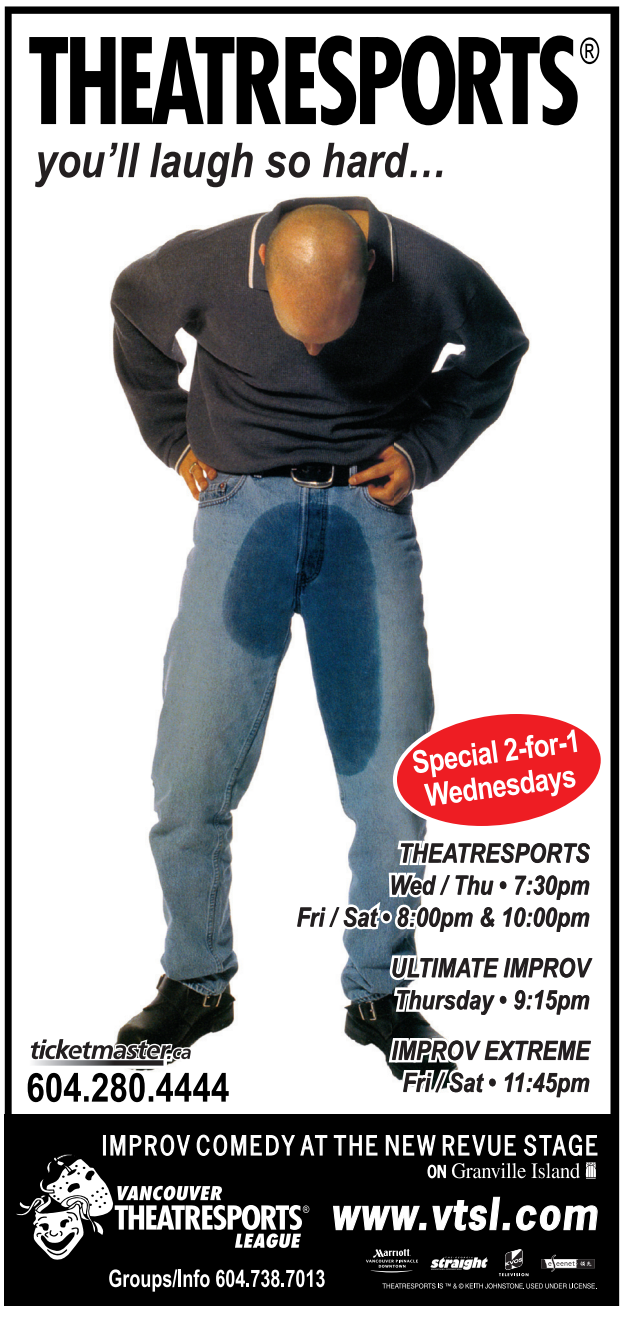
REVIEW When director Gus Van Sant remade Psycho back in 1998, it was slayed by critics. Although trying to recreate the Hitchcock classic shot-for-shot was a daft experiment, it was doomed to fail. You cannot recapture lightning in a bottle twice. Why even try? Friday the 13th is one so-called classic in which that strategy may have actually helped. After all, the original 1980 version was a low-budget, low-brow horror flick that looks horrific by today's standards.
Steve Gow/Metro Canada

He's Just Not That Into You
●●½

REVIEW Warning: He's Just Not That Into You, based on the bestselling self-help book, is a bad movie choice for date night. For a girl's night (or guy's night), however, it might be just perfect. As long as you remember it's only a movie and take care not to read too much into anything — it could be hazardous to your personal life.
Robyn Young/Metro Canada

The International
●●½

REVIEW Filmed in four countries across two continents, The International may be a global thriller, but it may also be too sprawling for its own good. Interpol agent Louis Salinger (Clive Owen) has dedicated his career to taking down a powerful international bank that has been secretly dealing in financing terrorism around the world.
Steve Gow/Metro Canada



Screen Times

This week's new releases are highlighted in pink.

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., FEB.27 TO THURS., MARCH 5. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

VANCOUVER

OMNIMAX THEATRE SCIENCE WORLD
1455 Quebec St., 604-443-7443

The Alps (STC) Fri-Thu 3 Fri 7:30
Grand Canyon Adventure: River at Risk in 3D (STC) Fri-Thu 1
Journey Into Amazing Caves (STC) A.M. Fri-Thu 11 Sat 7:30
Pulse: A Stomp Odyssey (STC) Sat-Thu 5
Roving Mars (G) Fri-Thu 12-2-4 Fri-Sat 8:30

CN IMAX THEATRE
201-999 Canada Place, 604-682-4629

African Adventure 3D: Safari in the Okavango (STC) Fri 1 Sat-Sun 1-5
The Dark Knight (14A) Fri-Sun 8
Under the Sea 3D (G) Fri 12-2-7 Sat-Sun 12-2-4-7 Mon-Thu 12-1-2-4-6-7
Wild Ocean (G) Fri-Sun 3-6 Mon-Thu 3

DUNBAR THEATRE
4555 Dunbar Street, 604-222-2991

Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Fri 7-9:30 Sat-Sun 3:45-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 7-9:30

FIFTH AVENUE CINEMAS
2110 Burrard Street, 604-734-7469

The Reader (18A) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:10-6:50-9:20
Rebel Without a Cause (STC) A.M. Sat 10
Revolutionary Road (14A) Fri-Mon 1:30-4:20-7:10-9:40 Tue 1:30-4:20-9:40 Wed 1:30-4:20-7:10-9:40 Thu 1:30-4:20-9:40
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Fri-Tue 1-2-4-5-7-8-9:35 Wed 1-2-4-5-7-9:35 Thu 1-2-4-5-7-8-9:35
Stone of Destiny (PG) Fri-Thu 1:45-4:30-7:20-9:25

GRANVILLE
855 Granville St., 604-684-4000

Cadillac Records (14A) Fri 7:10-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:10-4:15-7:10-9:40 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:40
Frost/Nixon (PG) Fri 6:50-9:30 Sat-Sun 1-4-6:50-9:30 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:30
Gran Torino (14A) Fri 6:45-9:25 Sat-Sun 1:20-4:10-6:45-9:25 Mon-Thu 6:45-9:25
Hotel for Dogs (G) Sat-Sun 1:30-4:20
Milk (PG) Fri 6:55-9:45 Sat-Sun 1:05-3:55-6:55-9:45 Mon-Thu 6:55-9:45
Opus Arte: Manon (Ballet) (STC) Sat 1
Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Fri 7:15-9:50 Sat-Sun 1:25-4:05-7:15-9:50 Mon-Thu 7:15-9:50
Revolutionary Road (14A) Fri-Thu 7-9:35
Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (18A) Fri 7:05-9:20 Sat 4:25-7:05-9:20 Sun 1:15-4:25-7:05-9:20 Mon-Tue 7:05-9:20 Wed-Thu 9:20

HOLLYWOOD THEATRE
3123 W. Broadway, 604-738-3211

I've Loved You So Long (G) Fri 9:30 Sat-Sun 3:30-9:30 Mon-Thu 9:30
Rachel Getting Married (PG) Fri 7:30 Sat-Sun 1:30-7:30 Mon-Thu 7:30

OAKRIDGE
650 West 41st Ave., 604-263-1944

Confessions of a Shopaholic (G) Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 7-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Sun 1:15-4:20-7-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital Mon-Thu 5:20-8:30
He's Just Not That Into You (PG) DTS Digital Fri 6:45-9:50 DTS Digital Sat-Sun 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:50 DTS Digital Mon-Thu 5-8
Taken (14A) DTS Digital Fri 7:20-9:40 DTS Digital Sat-Sun 1:35-4:40-7:20-9:40 DTS Digital Mon-Thu 5:10-8:15
Watchmen (18A) Dolby Stereo Digital Thu 11:59

PACIFIC CINÉMATHÈQUE
1131 Howe Street, 604-688-3456

Before Tomorrow (STC) Thu 7:30
Canada's Top Ten 2008 Shorts Program 1 (STC) Sun 7
Canada's Top Ten 2008 Shorts Program 2 (STC) Sun 8:30
Fifty Dead Men Walking (14A) Fri 9:35 Sat 7:15
Heaven on Earth (PG) Sat 9:30 Mon 7:30
Lost Song (STC) Thu 9:20
Maman Est Chez le Coiffeur (STC) Wed 7:30
La Mémoire des anges (STC) Mon 9:30 Wed 9:25
Pontypool (PG) Fri 7:30

PARK THEATRE
3440 Cambie Street, 604-876-2747

Milk (PG) Fri 4-7-9:35 Sat-Sun 1:15-4-7-9:35 Mon-Thu 4-7-9:35

RIDGE THEATRE
3131 Arbutus Street, 604-738-6311

The Royal Ballet - Manon (STC) A.M. Sun 10
The Wrestler (14A) Fri 4-7-9:20 Sat 1:30-4-7-9:20 Sun 1:30-4 Mon-Thu 4-7-9:20 Wed 1

RIO ON BROADWAY
1660 E. Broadway, 604-878-Film

Bad Lieutenant (STC) Sat
The Evil Dead (STC) Fri
Evil Dead 2: Dead by Dawn (STC) Fri
Reservoir Dogs (STC) Sat 12
Spike & Mike's Sick & Twisted Festival of Animation (STC) Fri 7-9:15 Sat-Sun 4:30-7-9:15 Mon-Thu 7-9:15
Watchmen (18A) Thu 12

SCOTIABANK THEATRE
900 Burrard St., 604-630-1407

Confessions of a Shopaholic (G) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:20-7-9:50
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) Fri-Thu 12:40-4:15-8
The International (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:10-7:30-10:20
Jonas Brothers: The 3D Concert Experience in Disney Digital 3D (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 10:30-12:30-2:45-5-7:10-9:20 No Passes Mon-Thu 12-2:30-4:50-7:15-9:30
Push (14A) Fri-Wed 1:50-4:30-7:50-10:30 Thu 1:50-4:30-10:30
Stone of Destiny (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:50-6:50-9:30
Street Fighter: The Legend of Chun-Li (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 1-3:40-7:20-10:10
Taken (14A) Fri-Thu 1:40-4-7:40-10
Watchmen (18A) No Passes Thu 12:01
The Wrestler (14A) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:30-6:40-9:40

TINSELTOWN
88 West Pender, 604-806-0799

Che (STC) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:30-7:30
The Class (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45-4-7:20-10:10
Coraline 3D (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:10-3:30-7-9:30
Doubt (G) Fri-Thu 12:20-2:55-5:25-7:55-10:30
Fired Up (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:05-2:20-4:35-6:50-9:10
Friday the 13th (18A) Fri-Thu 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:25
He's Just Not That Into You (PG) Fri-Thu 1:05-4:05-7:15-10:15
The Pink Panther 2 (PG) Fri-Thu 12-2:15-4:25-7:05-9:20
The Reader (18A) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:10-7:10-10
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Fri-Thu 12:15-1:25-3:05-4:30-6:10-7:25-9-10:20
Wendy and Lucy (PG) Fri-Thu 1-3:15-5:20-7:45-9:50

VANCITY THEATRE
1181 Seymour St., 604-683-Film

The Godfather, Part II (STC) Fri 7 Sun-Mon 7
Miller's Crossing (STC) Tue 7:30

VAN EAST CINEMA
2290 Commercial Drive, 604-251-1313

Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Fri 7-9:25 Sat-Sun 4:30-7-9:25 Mon-Thu 7-9:25

NORTH SHORE

ESPLANADE 6
200 West Esplanade, 604-983-2762

Confessions of a Shopaholic (G) Fri 7:15-9:35 Sat-Sun 1:30-4-7:15-9:35 Mon-Thu 7:15-9:35
Friday the 13th (18A) Fri-Thu 7:20-9:45
Hotel for Dogs (G) Sat 1:20-4:10
The International (14A) Fri 6:45-9:25 Sat-Sun 1:10-3:50-6:45-9:25 Mon-Thu 6:45-9:25
Jonas Brothers: The 3D Concert Experience in Disney Digital 3D (G) Fri 7-9:15 Sat-Sun 12:45-2:45-4:45-7-9:15 Mon-Thu 7-9:15
Opus Arte: Manon (Ballet) (STC) Sat 1
The Reader (18A) Fri 7:10-9:50 Sat-Sun 1:15-4:20-7:10-9:50 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:50
Watchmen (18A) Thu 12
The Wrestler (14A) Fri 6:40-9:30 Sat 4:15-6:40-9:30 Sun 1:40-4:15-6:40-9:30 Mon-Thu 6:40-9:30

PARK & TILFORD
333 Brooksbank Ave., 604-985-3911

Coraline 3D (PG) Fri 6:40-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:30-6:40-9:30 Mon-Thu 6:40-9:30
Fired Up (14A) Fri 6:35-9:35 Sat-Sun 12:35-3:10-6:35-9:35 Mon-Thu 6:35-9:35
He's Just Not That Into You (PG) Fri 6:50-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:40-6:50-9:50 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:50
The Pink Panther 2 (PG) Fri 6:30-9:20 Sat-Sun 12:45-3:20-6:30-9:20 Mon-Thu 6:30-9:20 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Fri 7-10 Sat-Sun 1-4-7-10 Mon-Thu 7-10
Street Fighter: The Legend of Chun-Li (14A) No Passes Fri 7:10-9:40 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:50-3:50-7:10-9:40 No Passes Mon-Thu 7:10-9:40 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Thu 1

RICHMOND

RICHMOND CENTRE 6
6551 #3 Road, 604-273-7173

Confessions of a Shopaholic (G) Fri 4:25-6:55-9:35 Sat 1:15-4:25-6:55-9:35 Sun 1:15-4:25-6:55 Mon-Thu 4:25-6:55
He's Just Not That Into You (PG) Fri 4:10-7-9:55 Sat 1-4:10-7-9:55 Sun 1-4:10-7 Mon-Thu 4:10-7
The International (14A) Fri 4:20-7:10-9:50 Sat 1:10-4:20-7:10-9:50 Sun 1:10-4:20-7:10 Mon-Thu 4:20-7:10
Milk (PG) Fri 4:15-7:05-10 Sat 1:05-4:15-7:05-10 Sun 1:05-4:15-7:05 Mon-Thu 4:15-7:05
The Pink Panther 2 (PG) Fri 4:30-6:50-9:30 Sat 1:20-4:30-6:50-9:30 Sun 1:20-4:30-6:50 Mon-Thu 4:30-6:50
The Wrestler (14A) Fri 4:35-7:15-9:45 Sat 1:25-4:35-7:15-9:45 Sun 1:25-4:35-7:15 Mon-Thu 4:35-7:15

SILVERCITY RIVERPORT
14211 Entertainment Way, 604-272-7280

Confessions of a Shopaholic (G) Fri-Thu 1:05-4:05-7:20-10:25
Coraline (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:55-6:40-9:35
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) Fri-Thu 8:10
The Day the Earth Stood Still: The IMAX Experience (PG) Fri-Thu 1-4-7
Delhi 6 (Hindi w/e.s.t.) (PG) Fri-Thu 12:05-3:20-6:35-9:50
Fired Up (14A) Fri-Thu 12:50-4:40-7:35-10:25
Friday the 13th (18A) Fri-Thu 1:45-4:35-7:50-10:35
Gran Torino (14A) Fri-Wed 12:10-3:40-6:50-9:40 Thu 3:40-6:50-9:40 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
He's Just Not That Into You (PG) Fri-Thu 12:15-3:30-7:10:15
Hotel for Dogs (G) Fri-Thu 12-2:40-5:15
The International (14A) Fri-Thu 12:35-3:45-7:05-10
Jag Jeondeyan de Mele (in Punjabi) (G) Fri-Thu 12:30-4:30-8:30
Jonas Brothers: The 3D Concert Experience in Disney Digital 3D (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 10:30-12:40-2:45-5-7:15-9:30 No Passes Mon-Thu 12:40-2:45-5-7:15-9:30
Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Fri-Thu 12:25-4:15-6:45-9:25
The Pink Panther 2 (PG) Fri-Thu 12-2:30-4:55-7:40-10:20
Push (14A) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:50-6:55-10:05
The Reader (18A) Fri-Wed 1:15-4:20-7:45-10:40 Thu 4:20-7:45-10:40 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1

you could WIN A DOUBLE PASS TO AN ADVANCE SCREENING OF WATCHMEN In theatres 03.06.09
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For full contest rules and details, visit www.metronews.ca. metro

Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Fri-Thu 12:25-4:10-7:10-10:10
Street Fighter: The Legend of Chun-Li (14A) No Passes Fri-Wed 1:30-4:25-7:30-10:30 No Passes Thu 1:30-4:25-7-9:30
Taken (14A) Fri-Thu 1-4-7:25-9:55
Watchmen (18A) No Passes Thu 12:01
Watchmen: The IMAX Experience (18A) No Passes Thu 12:01

BURNABY

DOLPHIN CINEMAS
4555 E. Hastings St., 604-293-0332

He's Just Not That Into You (PG) Fri 6:30-9 Sat 1-6:30-9 Sun 1:30-4-6:30-9 Mon-Thu 6:30-9
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Fri 7-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:30-4-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 7-9:30

SILVERCITY METROPOLIS
4700 Kingsway Ave., 604-435-7474

Confessions of a Shopaholic (G) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:10-7:05-10
Coraline (PG) Fri-Thu 1-3:40-7-9:40
Fired Up (14A) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:20-6:50-9:30
Friday the 13th (18A) Fri-Thu 1:15-3:50-7:30-10:15
He's Just Not That Into You (PG) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:30-7:15-10:30
Jonas Brothers: The 3D Concert Experience in Disney Digital 3D (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 10:45-12:45-2:45-4:45-7-9:15 No Passes Mon-Thu 12:45-2:45-4:45-7-9:15
Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Fri-Tue 12:50-3:25-6:45-9:30 Wed 3:25-6:45-9:30 Thu 12:50-3:25-6:45-9:30
Push (14A) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:55-7:10-9:55
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Fri-Thu 1:05-4-7:20-10:10
Street Fighter: The Legend of Chun-Li (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:45-3:45-6:55-9:45
Watchmen (18A) No Passes Thu 12:01

STATION SQUARE
220-6200 McKay Ave., 604-434-7711

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) Fri 4:40-7:50 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:40-7:50 Mon-Thu 4:40-7:50
Gran Torino (14A) Fri-Sat 9:45 Sun-Thu 7:30
Hotel for Dogs (G) Fri 4:30 Sat-Sun 1:40-4:30 Mon-Thu 4:30
Inkheart (PG) Fri 5-7:30 Sat 2:15-5-7:30 Sun 2:15-5 Mon-Thu 5
The International (14A) Fri 5:05-7:35-10:05 Sat 2:05-5:05-7:35-10:05 Sun 2:05-5:05-7:35 Mon-Thu 5:05-7:35
The Pink Panther 2 (PG) Fri 4:55-7:25-10:10 Sat 2-4:55-7:25-10:10 Sun 2-4:55-7:25 Mon-Thu 4:55-7:25
Taken (14A) Fri 4:45-7:40-9:55 Sat 1:50-4:45-7:40-9:55 Sun 1:50-4:45-7:40 Mon-Thu 4:45-7:40
Twilight (PG) Fri 4:50-7:20-9:50 Sat 2:10-4:50-7:20-9:50 Sun 2:10-4:50-7:20 Mon-Thu 4:50-7:20
Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (18A) Fri-Sat 7:15-10 Sun-Thu 7:15

NEW WEST/ COQUITLAM

SILVERCITY COQUITLAM
170 Schoolhouse Street, 604-523-2911

Confessions of a Shopaholic (G) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:25-6:55-9:55
Coraline (PG) Fri-Sun 11-1:40-4:15-7:05-9:45 Mon-Thu 1:40-4:15-7:05-9:45
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) Fri-Tue 12:30-4:45-8:45 Wed 4:45-8:45 Thu 12:30-4:45-8:45 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Fired Up (14A) Fri-Thu 12:05-2:30-4:55-7:50-10:30
Friday the 13th (18A) Fri-Thu 12:15-2:40-5:05-7:35-10:05
Gran Torino (14A) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:20-7:20-10:10
He's Just Not That Into You (PG) Fri-Wed 12:20-3:25-7:10:05 Thu 12:20-3:25-7-10
Hotel for Dogs (G) Fri-Sun 11:15-1:45-4:25-7 Mon-Thu 1:45-4:25-7
The International (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:20-7:15-10:15
Jonas Brothers: The 3D Concert Experience in Disney Digital 3D (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 10:50-12:50-2:50-5-7-9:10 No Passes Mon 12:50-2:50-5-7-9:15 No Passes Tue-Thu 12:50-2:50-5-7-9:10
Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Fri-Thu 12:10-2:35-5:10-7:40-10:15
The Pink Panther 2 (PG) Fri-Thu 12:25-2:50-5:15-7:35-10
Push (14A) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:25-10:20
The Reader (18A) Fri-Tue 12:40-3:55-6:50-9:40 Wed 3:55-6:50-9:40 Thu 12:40-3:55-6:50-9:40 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Revolutionary Road (14A) Fri-Thu 9:45
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Fri-Thu 1-4-7-10
Stone of Destiny (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:10-7-9:30
Street Fighter: The Legend of Chun-Li (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12-2:35-5:15-7:50-10:35
Taken (14A) Fri-Thu 12:15-2:50-5:20-7:45-10:25
Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (18A) Fri-Thu 1:20-3:55-6:45-9:35
Watchmen (18A) No Passes Thu 12:01
The Wrestler (14A) Fri-Thu 1:35-4:35-7:35-10:25

SURREY/WHITE ROCK/LANGLEY

CLOVA
5732-176th St., Surrey, 604-541-9527

Hotel for Dogs (G) Sat-Sun 1:30
New in Town (PG) Fri-Thu 8:45
The Pink Panther 2 (PG) Fri-Thu 7

HOLLYWOOD 3 CINEMA
7125-138th Street, Surrey, 604-592-4441

Bedtime Stories (G) Fri 4:30-6:30 Sat-Sun 12-4:30-6:30 Mon-Thu 4:30-6:30
Friday the 13th (18A) Fri-Thu 9
Gran Torino (14A) Fri-Thu 8:20
Hotel for Dogs (G) Fri 6:30 Sat-Sun 12-2:15-6:30 Mon-Thu 6:30
Inkheart (PG) Fri-Thu 4:30
Marley & Me (G) Fri 4:40-6:55 Sat-Sun 12-2:15-4:40-6:55 Mon-Thu 4:40-6:55
The Tale of Despereaux (G) Sat-Sun 2
Twilight (PG) Fri-Thu 8:30

STRAWBERRY HILL GRANDE
12161-72nd Ave, Surrey, 604-501-9400

Billu Barber (Hindi w/e.s.t.) (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:45-6:55-9:55
Confessions of a Shopaholic (G) Fri-Thu 1:35-4:15-7:15-9:50
Delhi 6 (Hindi w/e.s.t.) (PG) Fri-Thu 12:35-3:30-6:45-10
Fired Up (14A) Fri-Thu 1:45-4:20-7:20-9:40
He's Just Not That Into You (PG) Fri-Tue 1-4:05-7:05-10:10 Wed 4:05-7:05-10:10 Thu 1-4:05-7:05-10:10 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
The International (14A) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:35-6:50-9:35
Jag Jeondeyan de Mele (in Punjabi) (G) Fri-Thu 12:30-1-4:15-4:45-8-8:30
Jonas Brothers: The 3D Concert Experience in Disney Digital 3D (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:45-2:50-4:55-7-9:15
Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Fri-Thu 1:40-3:50-7:25-9:35
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:10-7-10:05
Taken (14A) Fri-Tue 1:05-3:40-7:10-9:25 Wed 3:40-7:10-9:25 Thu 1:05-3:40-7:10-9:25 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Watchmen (18A) No Passes Thu 12:01

STUDIO 12 GUILDFORD
15051-101st Ave, Surrey, 604-581-1176

Confessions of a Shopaholic (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:20-4:15-7-9:40
Coraline (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:15-4-6:55-9:25
Fired Up (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:50-4:35-7:20-9:55
Friday the 13th (18A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 4:25-7:25-10:15
He's Just Not That Into You (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:10-4:10-7:10-10:10
Hotel for Dogs (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:30
The International (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 3:50-6:40-9:35
Jag Jeondeyan de Mele (in Punjabi) (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, Sub-Titled Fri-Thu 1-4:30-8
Jonas Brothers: The 3D Concert Experience in Disney Digital 3D (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Thu 1-3-5-7:15-9:30
Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:25-4:05-7:25-9:50
The Pink Panther 2 (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:40
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:05-3:55-6:50-9:45
Street Fighter: The Legend of Chun-Li (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Thu 2-4:40-7:30-10:05
Taken (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:45-4:20-7:05-10

RIALTO
1732-152nd Street, White Rock, 604-541-9527, criteriontheatres.com

He's Just Not That Into You (PG) Fri 7-9:20 Sat-Sun 2-7-9:20 Mon-Thu 7-9:20
The Reader (18A) Fri 7:10-9:30 Sat-Sun 2:10-7:10-9:30 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:30

CRITERION 4 WHITE ROCK
2381 King George Hwy., 604-531-7456

Confessions of a Shopaholic (G) Fri 7:20-9:20 Sat-Sun 2:20-7:20-9:20 Mon-Thu 7:20-9:20
The Pink Panther 2 (PG) Fri 7:30-9:15 Sat-Sun 2:30-7:30-9:15 Mon-Thu 7:30-9:15
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Fri 7-9:25 Sat-Sun 2-7-9:25 Mon-Thu 7-9:25
The Wrestler (14A) Fri 7:10-9:30 Sat-Sun 2:10-7:10-9:30 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:30

COLOSSUS LANGLEY
20090-91A Ave, Langley, 604-513-8747

Confessions of a Shopaholic (G) Fri-Sun 12:10-3:35-7-10:10 Mon-Thu 3:35-7-10:10
Coraline (PG) Fri-Sun 1:20-4:25-7:20-10:05 Mon-Thu 4:25-7:20-10:05
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) Fri-Sun 12:45-4:20-8:10 Mon-Thu 4:20-8:10
The Day the Earth Stood Still: The IMAX Experience (PG) Fri-Sun 1-4-7:30 Mon-Thu 4-7:30
Defiance (14A) Fri-Thu 9:35
Fired Up (14A) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:55-7:25-10:20 Mon-Thu 3:55-7:25-10:20
Friday the 13th (18A) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:40-7:45-10:30 Mon-Thu 4:40-7:45-10:30
Gran Torino (14A) Fri-Sun 12:25-3:30-6:50-9:55 Mon-Thu 3:30-6:50-9:55
He's Just Not That Into You (PG) Fri-Sun 1-4:15-7:25-10:30 Mon-Thu 4:15-7:25-10:30
Hotel for Dogs (G) Fri-Sun 12:35-3:50-6:45 Mon-Thu 3:50-6:45
The International (14A) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:30-7:05-10 Mon-Thu 3:30-7:05-10
Jonas Brothers: The 3D Concert Experience in Disney Digital 3D (G) No Passes Fri 12:30-2:45-5-7:30-9:45 No Passes Sat-Sun 10:30-12:30-2:45-5-7:30-9:45 No Passes Mon-Thu 5-7:30-9:45
Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Fri-Sun 1:15-4:05-7:10-9:40 Mon-Thu 4:05-7:10-9:40
The Pink Panther 2 (PG) Fri-Sun 12:05-2:25-4:50-7:15-9:50 Mon-Thu 4:50-7:15-9:50
Push (14A) Fri-Sun 12:15-4:10-7:35-10:25 Mon-Tue 4:10-7:35-10:25 Wed 7:35-10:25 Thu 4:10-7:35-10:25 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 3
The Reader (18A) Fri-Sun 12-3:40-6:40-9:45 Mon-Tue 3:40-6:40-9:45 Wed 6:40-9:45 Thu 3:40-6:40-9:45 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 3
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Fri-Sun 12:20-3:45-6:55-9:50 Mon-Thu 3:45-6:55-9:50
Street Fighter: The Legend of Chun-Li (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:05-3:55-7:40-10:20 No Passes Mon-Thu 3:55-7:40-10:20
Taken (14A) Fri-Sun 12:55-4-7:20-10:15 Mon-Thu 4-7:20-10:15
Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (18A) Fri-Sun 1:25-4:35-7:50-10:30 Mon-Thu 4:35-7:50-10:30
Watchmen (18A) No Passes Thu 12:01
Watchmen: The IMAX Experience (18A) No Passes Thu 12:01

TWILIGHT DRIVE-IN
260th Street & Fraser Highway, Langley, 604-856-5063

The International (14A) Fri-Sun 9:15
The Pink Panther 2 (PG) Fri-Sun 7:30

The top pop albums, according to Billboard Magazine
1. Fearless, Taylor Swift, right; **2.** Uncle Charlie, Charlie Wilson; **3.** The Fray, The Fray; **4.** Dark Horse, Nickelback; **5.** I AM ... SASHA FIERCE, Beyoncé. **REUTERS**

Music

Little Voice suits Sara

ROB MCMAHON
for Metro Canada

When setting up in a new city, we all find ways to ease the transition. For singer-songwriter Sara Bareilles, the solution was to join an a cappella group.

Soon after moving to L.A. from Eureka, Calif., to attend UCLA, the chart-topping Grammy nominee signed up with Awaken A Capella, a group that mirrored the musical theatre she grew up performing.

"If you listen to my album (Little Voice), you'll hear that I'm very much in love with vocal harmonies, and that's part of what drew me to a cappella," she said. "Singing with such a supportive group really nurtured my confidence ... It also enlightened me to the versatility of the voice — to how dynamic a vocal performance can be."

Bareilles hasn't undergone formal musical training, though her natural command of vocals shines through her love of a capella and sharply observant lyrics. While Little Voice's piano-driven tracks are largely dominated by vocals, they also feature details cribbed from studio musicians, from the Maroon 5-esque funk-rock of Morningside to Come Round Soon's electronic intro.

"Sometimes I wish my training was different, since my skill level would be at a different place, and some of my limitations as a player would be solved," she said. "(But) since songwriting has not been not dissected for me, it's completely personality-based. I'm not breaking it down to make a formula, or understand it mathematically."

Writing and recording Little Voice entailed some measure of creative conflict between Bareilles and producer Eric Rosse. The pair are still friends, and Bareilles said the experience, while difficult at the time, helped her grow as an artist. Compared to her self-produced demo album, Careful Confessions, the tracks on Little Voice are much bigger — in terms of production, delivery and attached price tag. Several are reworked versions of earlier songs.

"When making music, if there's not anyone pushing back and challenging you — if you don't fight for your ideas ... (and you're) surrounded by yes men, you end up not doing everything you can," she said. "In order to better understand your art, you need to find a way to articulate it ... and that comes out every part of life — having to be your own advocate."

SONY MUSIC PHOTO

Singer-songwriter Sara Bareilles scored two Grammy nominations for her album Little Voice.

Seeking the truth behind U2's big leak

SoundCheck

Alan Cross
alan@ongoinghistory.com

About 7 a.m. last Wednesday, I received an email. "Want the new U2 album?" Within seconds, I was listening to U2's No Line on the Horizon.

A legitimate online store in Australia accidentally made the full album available for about two hours while Europe and North America slept. A few fans bought the album, re-ripped it to remove any digital locks and set it free. The tracks went global in seconds. A disaster for U2 and its label, right?

But since I believe in gunmen on grassy knolls and that the government knows that grey aliens are regularly kidnapping hillbillies, I began to wonder whether this really was a leak.

ARGUMENT FOR: The album leaked through the online store officially used by Universal Australia. Universal is U2's record label.

ARGUMENT AGAINST: Why would the world's biggest record label do something that sabotages sales for an album by its biggest band?

FOR: This was actually the second leak. A week earlier, it was available on Napster Mobile. But since no one has ever heard of Napster Mobile, it went unnoticed. Could the Australian leak have been a mulligan?

AGAINST: U2 manager Paul McGuiness is one of music's most outspoken people on the problem of piracy and illegal downloads. He wants ISPs put on the hook for money lost due to file-trading.

FOR: Reaction to Get On Your Boots, the first single, has been tepid. An album leak gets people talking about U2.

AGAINST: People will talk about U2, anyway. The band played for Obama and opened the Grammys.

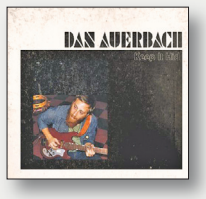
FOR: According to Forbes, only one-eighth a band's income comes from album sales these days. U2 will gross a $250 million from its upcoming world tour. A new CD is just an excuse for U2 to go on the road and make some real money.

AGAINST: When you sell more than 10 million copies of each album, one-eighth is still a lot of money.

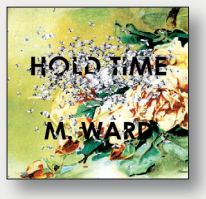
The real answer is probably "It was all just a mistake." You can keep a new album secret as long as it stays in the studio, but the moment you have to ship it to pressing plants and download stores, it can all go horribly wrong very quickly. All it takes is one digital copy.

The Ongoing History of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada. Read more at ongoinghistory.com and exploremusic.com

Metro recommends



• **DAN AUERBACH, KEEP IT HID:** The Black Keys frontman goes solo and explores the crossroads of spooky psychedelic rock and soulful Delta-blues.



• **M. WARD, HOLD TIME:** Ward blends his well-worn voice with vintage guitars and Americana sounds for a dreamy folk-pop experience.

• **THE HEARTLESS BASTARDS, THE MOUNTAIN:** Raunchy garage rockers turn down the volume by adding acoustic sounds. The rootsy new feel perfectly suits Erika Wennerstrom's haunting vocals. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

TOP 10 MOBILE DOWNLOADS
1 Poker Face — Lady Gaga
2 Live Your Life — T.I. ft. Rihanna
3 Right Now — Akon
4 Heartless — Kanye West
5 Single Ladies — Beyoncé
6 Whatever You Like — T.I.
7 Let It Rock — Kevin Rudolf
8 Love Story — Taylor Swift
9 Sex On Fire — Kings Of Leon
10 Untouched — The Veronicas
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* Prices are subject to change without prior notice. Prices vary based on prescription strength. Applicable to surgery on both eyes only.
† 60 month financing, starting at 8.9% interest, and subject to Desjardins Card Services credit approval.

Clooney ... scrubs ... NBC ... March 12 ... be there!
George Clooney will be back in his ER scrubs for one final episode of the NBC medical drama that will air March 12. A show insider says Clooney will reunite with Julianna Margulies in a storyline that also features Susan Sarandon. **PEOPLE.COM**

Television

Huge laughs in next Apprentice: Green

ROBYN YOUNG
for Metro Canada

Tom Green predicts the upcoming season of Celebrity Apprentice will be the most entertaining yet.

"It's was ridiculous," the comic said in a telephone interview from L.A.

The Canadian actor, comedian and writer, best known for MTV's The Tom Green Show and his feature film Freddy Got Fingered, is looking forward to watching the debauchery unfold starting Sunday when the second season of The Celebrity Apprentice airs.

Some of his fellow competitors included Dennis Rodman, Clint Black, Andrew Dice Clay, Joan Rivers and her daughter Melissa Rivers and Green said his main objective was to maintain a positive attitude and make each episode as funny as possible.

When arguments began, for example, he tried his best to encourage them.

"I'd just sort of listen intently to the person who was making the least sense and then that would give them confidence and they'd argue more," he said.

One of the funniest things for him was to see Clint Black and Dennis Rodman screaming at each other, he said.

And they weren't the only two of the 16 candidates to lose their cool.

Green couldn't give away all of the show's secrets, but he said there were several competitors who just didn't get along. The combination of strong personalities with the challenging, 16-hour days filled with complicated tasks, created a very volatile situation.

"It makes for some pretty cool TV," the 38-year-old said with a laugh.

The comedian found an ally in fellow funny man Andrew Dice Clay who has appeared several times as a guest on tomgreen.com, The Channel, where Green broadcasts a one-hour talk-show from his living room.

On the set of The Apprentice, the two jokesters continued the fun and games, adding some much needed comic relief to the mix.

Green

"We were almost able to be a bit of a tag team as far as creating mass confusion and hysteria," Green said.

• The Celebrity Apprentice premieres the evening of Sunday, March 1.

FRIDAY 2/27/09

VA	Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	251	308	3	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Rick Mercer	Marketplace	CBC News: the fifth estate		CBC News: The National (N)		(:05) The Hour
	255	358	6	JOY	E News	The Insider	Fashion Police: Academy		Friday Night Lights (N) (CC)		20/20 (CC)		News (N)
	250	321	9	CTV	etalk (CC)	Hollywood	Ghost Whisperer (N) (CC)		Flashpoint (N) (CC)		Raising the Bar (N) (CC)		News (N)
	252	336	11	GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Howie Do It	Howie Do It	(:01) Dollhouse "Stage Fright"		NUMB3RS "Cover Me" (N)		News (N)
	256	389	12	VI	Instant Star	TMZ (N) (CC)	Sarah Connor Chronicles		Supernanny (N) (CC)		Whistler Brother's friend.		News (CC)
	253	359	13	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Mantracker "Dustin and Ian"		Survivorman (CC)		Crusoe "Sacrifice" (CC)		The List
	-	-	14	CW	Deal-No Deal	Deal-No Deal	Hates Chris	The Game	Hates Chris	The Game	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15	CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	Ghost Whisperer (N) (CC)		Flashpoint (N) (CC)		NUMB3RS "Cover Me" (N)		News (N)
	287	379	16	NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	Howie Do It	Howie Do It	Friday Night Lights (N) (CC)		Dateline NBC (CC)		News (N)
	288	380	21	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Wife Swap (N) (CC)		Supernanny (N) (CC)		20/20 (CC)		KOMO 4 News
	290	382	23	FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Sarah Connor Chronicles		(:01) Dollhouse "Stage Fright"		News (N)	Most Wanted	Family Guy
news	502	390	26	NW	Divorce & Not Wreck the Kids		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National		Divorce & Not Wreck the Kids		National
	500	500	33	CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
sports	407	419	22	RSP	Boys to the Bigs		Hockey	World Sport	The Ultimate Fighter		Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	30	TSN	(6:30) Curling 2009 Scotties Tournament of Hearts -- Page Playoff. (CC)					SportsCentre	Billiards 2008 Mosconi Cup.		SportsCentre
family	552	543	25	YTV	Yours, Mine and Ours ★★★ (1968) Lucille Ball. (CC)				Falcon Beach (CC)		Ghost	Mystery Hnt.	Mystery Hnt.
	555	545	50	TEL	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6TEEN (CC)	6TEEN (CC)	Futurama	Batman ★★★ (1989) Jack Nicholson, Michael Keaton. (CC)			
variety	268	354	5	KNO	Arctic Mission		Poirot "The King of Clubs"		Dalziel and Pascoe (N) (CC)		Six O'Clock News ★★ (1997) Premiere. (CC)		
	575	583	20	CMT	A Father's Son ★ (1999, Docudrama) John Schneider, Joel Berti.					Candid C.	A Father's Son ★ (1999) John Schneider.		
	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami "Lost Son" (CC)		Criminal Minds "Jones"		CSI: Miami "Kill Switch"		CSI: Miami "Born to Kill"		CSI: Miami
	521	560	34	TLC	What Not to Wear "Addie"		What Not to Wear "Lynn"		What Not to Wear "Addie"		What Not to Wear (CC)		Weddings
	616	522	39	SHO	The Outer Limits "New Life"		Da Vinci's Inquest (CC)		Testees (CC)	Kenny-Spenny	Webdreams	Sin Cities	Wife Swap
	294	650	47	TBS	Talladega Nights:		Sex and-City	Sex and-City	Titanic ★★★★ (1997, Drama) (PA) Leonardo DiCaprio, Kate Winslet. (CC)				
	603	561	52	FN	Diner, Drive-In	Diner, Drive-In	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares		Challenge Ice cream. (CC)		Kylie Kwong	Gourmets	Diner, Drive-In
	320	621	60	CEN	(6:30) Prom Night ★★ (2008)		10,000 B.C. ★ (2008, Adventure) Steven Strait. Premiere. (CC)				The Hills Have Eyes 2 ★ (2007, Horror) (CC)		
	581	566	101	MTV	The City	The City	City Live After	Cribs (CC)	The Girls of Hedsor Hall		The City	The City	Made (CC)

SATURDAY 2/28/09

VA	Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	251	308	3	CBC	NHL Hockey Minnesota Wild at Edmonton Oilers. (Live) (CC)					HNIC -- After Hours		News (CC)	HNIC Replay
	255	358	6	JOY	Chef School	E News	A Job to Kill For (2006, Suspense) Sean Young. (CC)				Show Yours	G-Spot (CC)	News (CC)
	250	321	9	CTV	W-FIVE (CC)		Cold Case "True Calling"		Mayerthorpe (2008) Henry Czerny, Brian Markinson. (CC)				News (N)
	252	336	11	GTV	Shattered Dreams		Masterminds	Masterminds	Brothers & Sisters "Troubled Waters" (N) (CC)				News (N)
	256	389	12	VI	New Canoe	Island Week	The Road to Avonlea		Kool Countdown (CC)		Comedy Now	Comedy Now	Bravo! Fact
	253	359	13	CITY	Without a Trace "Suspect"		Less-Kind	Kaya (CC)	Earthstorm (2006) Stephen Baldwin, Dirk Benedict. (CC)				Role
	-	-	14	CW	CSI: NY (CC)		Boston Legal (CC)		Boston Legal (CC)		CSI: NY "Hung Out to Dry"		CSI: Miami
	289	381	15	CBS	Paid Program	Paid Program	Cold Case "True Calling"		48 Hours Mystery (CC)		48 Hours Mystery (N) (CC)		News (N)
	287	379	16	NBC	Backroads	Inside Edition	Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order "Zero" (CC)		News (N)
	288	380	21	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy!	Funniest Home Videos		Bewitched ★★ (2005) Nicole Kidman, Will Ferrell.				KOMO 4 News
	290	382	23	FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Cops (N) (PA)	Cops (CC)	America's Most Wanted		News (N)	Most Wanted	MADtv (N)
news	502	390	26	NW	CBC News: the fifth estate		Sat. Report	Fortune	Sat. Report	Mansbridge	CBC News: the fifth estate		Sat. Report
	500	500	33	CNN	D.L. Hughley-News		Newsroom		Larry King Live		D.L. Hughley-News		Newsroom
sports	407	419	22	RSP	English Premier League Soccer Teams TBA. (Same-day Tape)				The Ultimate Fighter		Sportsnet Connected (Live)		PartyPoker.net
	400	400	30	TSN	Curling	SportsCentre (Live) (CC)		NASCAR Racing Nationwide Series -- Sam's Town 300. (Same-day Tape)					SportsCentre
family	552	543	25	YTV	Team Galaxy	Team Galaxy	Zixx Level	Storm Hawks	Naruto (CC)	Bleach (CC)	Ghost	Ghost	Mystery Hnt.
	555	545	50	TEL	X-Men ★★★ (2000) Hugh Jackman, Patrick Stewart. (CC)				(:15) Futurama	Chicken	Clone High	Gay Couple	Moral Orel
variety	268	354	5	KNO	National Geographic Specials		Heartbeat Police investigation.		Midsomer Murders "Death and Dust" (N) (CC)				Montreal Jazz
	575	583	20	CMT	Emerson Drive		Grand Ole Opry Live		Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Emerson Drive		Ed (CC)
	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami "Felony Flight"		CSI: NY "Manhattan Manhunt"		CSI: Miami (CC)		CSI: Miami "Raising Caine"		CSI: Miami
	521	560	34	TLC	Deals on Bus	Real Estate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	My First Home	My First Home	Deals on Bus	Real Estate	Little People
	616	522	39	SHO	Mutant X "A Normal Life"		Legacy of Fear (2006, Suspense) Teri Polo. (CC)				Ultraviolet ★ (2006) Milla Jovovich. (CC)		
	294	650	47	TBS	(6:00) Old School ★★ (2003)		Funniest Commercials: 2008		Trust Me (CC)		Spanglish ★★★ (2004) Adam Sandler. (CC)		
	603	561	52	FN	Hell's Kitchen (CC)		The F Word (CC)		Challenge "Princess Cakes"		Top Chef (Part 2 of 2) (CC)		Hell's Kitchen
	320	621	60	CEN	U.S. of Tara	Secret Diary	The Killing Gene (2007) Stellan Skarsgard.			(:45) Grindhouse ★★★ (2007, Horror) Kurt Russell. (CC)			
	581	566	101	MTV	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	MTV Live	MTV News	After

SUNDAY 3/1/09

VA	Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	251	308	3	CBC	Heartland "Dark Horse" (N)		The Devil Wears Prada ★★★ (2006) Meryl Streep. (CC)				CBC News: Sunday Night (N)		News (CC)
	255	358	6	JOY	The Best Years		Extreme Makeover: Home		The Celebrity Apprentice (Season Premiere) (N) (CC)				News (CC)
	250	321	9	CTV	Star Wars Clo.	Degrassi: TNG	The Amazing Race 14 (N)		Criminal Minds (N) (CC)		The Mentalist (CC)		News (N)
	252	336	11	GTV	16:9 Picture	King of Hill	The Simpsons	King of Hill	Family Guy	American Dad	Life on Mars (CC)		News (N)
	256	389	12	VI	Funniest Home Videos		Water ★★★ (2005, Drama) Seema Biswas, Lisa Ray, John Abraham.					Look-A-Like	New Canoe
	253	359	13	CITY	2Half Men	2Half Men	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Rock of Love Bus		Crusoe (CC)		Role
	-	-	14	CW	(6:30) Jericho	Rain Man ★★★★ (1988, Comedy-Drama) Dustin Hoffman, Tom Cruise. (CC)					Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Cold Case
	289	381	15	CBS	60 Minutes (CC)		The Amazing Race 14 (N)		Jesse Stone: Thin Ice (2009) Tom Selleck. Premiere. (CC)				News (N)
	287	379	16	NBC	Saturday Night Live (CC)		Saturday Night Live (CC)		The Celebrity Apprentice (Season Premiere) (N) (CC)				News (N)
	288	380	21	ABC	Funniest Home Videos		Extreme Makeover: Home		Brothers & Sisters "Troubled Waters" (N) (CC)				KOMO 4 News
	290	382	23	FOX	Hole in the Wall (CC)		The Simpsons	King of Hill	Family Guy	American Dad	News (N)	Q It Up Sports	House (CC)
news	502	390	26	NW	Who Killed the Electric Car? ★★★ (2006, Documentary) (CC)				CBC News: Sunday Night		Who Killed the Electric Car? ★★★ (2006)		
	500	500	33	CNN	Newsroom		D.L. Hughley-News		Larry King Live		Newsroom		D.L. Hughley
sports	407	419	22	RSP	NHL Hockey	Sportsnet	Forever Faithful (2008, Documentary)				Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Hockey
	400	400	30	TSN	Curling: Scotties Tournament of Hearts			SportsCentre	Hockey 2009 BC World Cup Sledge Hockey. (Taped) (CC)				SportsCentre
family	552	543	25	YTV	(6:00) Flushed Away ★★★		Prank Patrol	Prank Patrol	The Next Star "The Buzz"		Adrenaline	Zixx Level	Mystery Hnt.
	555	545	50	TEL	Totally Spies	Totally Spies	6TEEN (CC)	6TEEN (CC)	Futurama	Punch	Life's a Zoo	Life's a Zoo	Gay Couple
variety	268	354	5	KNO	Amazing Planet (CC)		Doc Martin (CC)		Rebus "The First Stone" (N)		(:15) Dalziel and Pascoe		Montreal Jazz
	575	583	20	CMT	CMT Star Crossed		Dixie Chicks: Shut Up and Sing (CC)				Coyote Ugly	Coyote Ugly	Dixie Chicks
	615	520	31	A&E	The Sopranos "Chasing It"		The Sopranos "Chasing It"		CSI: Miami "Backstabbers"		CSI: Miami (CC)		The Sopranos
	521	560	34	TLC	Joined for Life: Abby-Brittany		Extreme Aging: Hayley		Flo & Kay: Twin Savants		Joined for Life: Abby-Brittany		Shocking
	616	522	39	SHO	The Guard (CC)		Thrill of the Kill (2006) Shiri Appleby, Chris Potter. (CC)				Damages "New York Sucks"		The Guard
	294	650	47	TBS	Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby ★★ (2006)				A Night at the Roxbury ★ (1998) Will Ferrell.			(:45) The Ringer ★★ (2005)	
	603	561	52	FN	The Next Food Network Star		The Heat	The Heat	Challenge Knife skills. (CC)		Iron Chef America (CC)		Next Star
	320	621	60	CEN	(6:00) A Mighty Heart ★★★		Never Back Down ★ (2008) Djimon Hounsou. Premiere.				Death Proof ★★★ (2007) Kurt Russell. (CC)		
	581	566	101	MTV	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	After	MTV News	Made "Pop Singer" (CC)		Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	Play'd (CC)

In brief

MELROSE PLACE And the first actor cast in the new Melrose Place is ... Michael Rady. The veteran of CBS' short-lived drama Swingtown landed the gig Wednesday, a day after the CW officially ordered a pilot for the Melrose update, to be directed by Davis Guggenheim (An Inconvenient Truth). Rady will play Jonah Miller, a cute and quirky 25-year-old aspiring filmmaker who makes his living as a videographer of weddings and bar mitzvahs for the rich and famous after moving to Los Angeles with his fiancee a year ago. **REUTERS**

Seinfeld enters the reality realm

TELEVISION Jerry Seinfeld is reteaming with NBC to launch his first reality series.

The comedian's project is tentatively called The Marriage Ref and features celebrities, comedians and athletes who will judge couples in the midst of a marital dispute while recommending various strategies to resolve their problem.

"This is not a therapy show, it's a comedy show," Seinfeld said. "After nine years of marriage, I have discovered that the comedic potential of this subject is quite rich."

Seinfeld is partnering with The Oprah Winfrey Show veteran Ellen Rakieten on the project, which reunites the comic with the network that aired his hit series Seinfeld for nine seasons.

NBC co-chair Ben Silverman said Seinfeld pitched the show as a companion piece of sorts to his classic sitcom. The comedian increasingly has used marriage for material in his standup act. As bachelorhood inspired Seinfeld, his experience as a married man will fuel the unscripted program.

"Some of the greatest comedies in the history of television have been around marriages," Silverman said. "The concept is so universal and accessible," he said.

REUTERS

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Conrad to quit The Hills
Lauren Conrad will quit The Hills after filming wraps on the upcoming fifth season. The MTV show focuses on Conrad and her friends as they go about their daily lives in Hollywood. **FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK**

Going Out

Metro's 7th Heaven: Metro taps what's hot right now

1 Jonas Brothers: The 3-D Concert Experience

FILM What's so wrong with watching three strapping, young lads belt out catchy, safe-as-milk rock tunes to fawning lady fans? Music and film purists may stay away, but if early reviews are any indicators, it all seems like a whole lot of fun.

2 Journalist Naomi Klein

AUTHOR The Canadian writer-journalist Naomi Klein made news again by winning the Warwick Prize for Writing for The Shock Doctrine, her investigative account of "disaster capitalism." The prize, worth about $90,000 Cdn, is run by Britain's University of Warwick and is handed out every other year.

3 K'naan

ALBUM The Somali-Canadian artist is more than just a hip-hopper and his bling-free new album proves it. Blending brilliant grooves with urgent protest poetry, K'naan brings a world of musical stylings to this work of art.

4 Ethical clothing

FASHION London Fashion Week designers put socially conscious threads at the top of their fashion agenda. About 37 renowned designers took part in the Esthetica exhibition, which showcased the latest trends in green and sustainable clothing.

5 Kate Winslet

CELEBRITY Slumdog Millionaire's sweep may have been the Oscar fairy tale, but the British actress was Sunday night's Cinderella. Not only did she look the very picture of grace and glamour in her Yves Saint Laurent dress, she finally managed to bag the Oscar that should have been hers years ago.

6 Bermuda

TRAVEL Whether you want to beat the winter or catch a little spring break, Bermuda is the place to go this season. The Caribbean island is celebrating its 400th anniversary this year, kicking things off with an historical exhibit this weekend. More events and hotel deals to follow.

7 Siam Sunrays

COCKTAIL Cuba's got the Mojito. There's the Singapore Sling and the Manhattan. Now Thailand has created this new cocktail, to add a little punch to the nation's tourism sector. Recipe? A shot of vodka, coconut liqueur, a dash of chili pepper and sugar, lime juice, a few slivers of lemongrass and ginger — shaken not stirred, then strained into a glass — with ice and soda water.

Mix of Six

Sledge Hockey Tournament

When: Saturday and Sunday 5-7 p.m.
Where: UBC Thunderbird Arena

Sledge hockey players take hitting to a new level by smashing into each other, propelling themselves around a rink faster than one could believe. Cost: $10 per ticket. Info: hockeycanada.ca/hcc.

B-52's

When: Friday, 8 p.m.
Where: Red Robinson Show Theatre, Coquitlam

The B-52's are back to promote their new CD Funplex. If you're a fan of such songs as Rock Lobster and Love Shack you'll enjoy the flashback of beach parties. Cost: $64.50/$74.50 ticketmaster.ca.

FUSE

When: Friday, 6 p.m.
Where: Vancouver Art Gallery

Some of Vancouver's most innovative musicians will perform at the Vancouver Art Gallery. They will create instant music throughout the Gallery through a series of "Encounters." Cost: $17.50 adults.

The Goldberg Variations - Side 2

When: Friday, Saturday 8 p.m.
Where: Queen Elizabeth Theatre

Witness the world premiere of renowned choreographer James Kudelka's The Goldberg Variations — Side 2: Adam & Eve & Steve. Tix: $30 – 79.25 ticketmaster.ca. Info: call 604-280-3311, or visit ballet-bc.com.

Toronto, Mississippi

When: Opens Saturday
Where: Vancouver Playhouse Theatre

This touching play by Joan MacLeod is about a mentally handicapped girl who lives with her concerned mother and a poet boarder. Their lives are interrupted by an unexpected guest. Cost: $30-$63.

Speaking of Maya

When: Saturday, 8 p.m.
Where: St. Jams Community Square

To celebrate Black History Month, legendary poet and playwright Maya Angelou comes together with special guests Joy Coghill, Judith Maxie and more. Cost: $20 ticketmaster.ca.

Morgan Freeman sued over car crash

COURTS A woman who was Morgan Freeman's passenger in an August car crash sued the Oscar winner for negligence recently and said she wants to clear her name from claims she was his mistress.

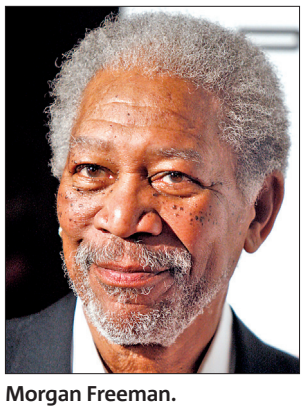
Demaris Meyer, the passenger, also said that despite media reports to the contrary, she and Freeman met the night of the accident at a country club, where they dined with mutual friends, and that she was not in a romantic affair with him.

"We are confident this will all be resolved."
Ken Sunshine, spokesman for Morgan Freeman

"I have been labelled as the 'other woman' and have been accused of having caused the breakup of Mr. Freeman's marriage. Nothing could be further from the truth," Meyer said at a news conference in Los Angeles.

She is represented by celebrity attorney Gloria Allred.

Meyer's lawsuit was filed in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Mississippi Delta Division. The crash happened the night of Aug. 3, 2008, near a home that Freeman keeps in Charleston, Miss., when he lost control of his Nissan Maxima and it struck a ditch and rolled over.


Morgan Freeman.

"We are confident this will all be resolved," said Ken Sunshine, a spokesman for Freeman. "We have no further comment on the current litigation."

Meyer said she was riding with Freeman that night because they were going to his ranch, since it was closer to her work than a friend's home where she originally planned to stay. **REUTERS**

Judge orders three men to stay away from Spears

COURTS A judge on Wednesday ordered three men with former ties to Britney Spears to continue staying away from the pop star amid claims they tried to undermine her father's control over her affairs.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Aviva K. Bobb extended a restraining order against Sam Lutfi, the star's former self-styled manager, and Adnan Ghalib, a former boyfriend, until March 18.

The judge also extended a restraining order against attorney Jon Eardley, who once claimed to represent Spears, until April 1.

Spears

At the same hearing, Itamar Gelbman, a former member of Spears' security team, testified that Lutfi sent text messages to the singer's hairstylist in December asking her to relay information to the pop star.

The restraining orders against the three men require them to keep away from Spears and her family. **REUTERS**

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Holly loses her Angel

It's over between illusionist Criss Angel and Girl Next Door Holly Madison. "Criss and Holly are no longer a couple," their rep told People magazine. "They remain very close friends and wish each other the very best." METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

'Critics don't get it': Paltrow

SITE Gwyneth Paltrow is taking on critics of her lifestyle website, Goop.com, just days after The New York Times published an article questioning the site's relevance in light of a barrage of swipes against its cardio-workout and pizza-recipe content, people.com reports.

"I think the people who are criticizing it or criticizing the idea of it, don't really get it, because if they did, they would like it," Paltrow told People this week.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Wedding bells ringing soon?

MARRIAGE Malinda Williams has fuelled reports her Nailed co-star Jake Gyllenhaal is set to marry girlfriend Reese Witherspoon after confessing she expects wedding bells soon, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The 28-year-old Jarhead star and his actress lover were recently spotted ring shopping at New York's Fred Leighton jewellery store, and his latest co-star insists it's obvious the couple will be man and wife soon.

She tells Life & Style magazine, "I wouldn't be surprised if they get married soon. Reese was on the set a lot. She and Jake are clearly in love.

"They're like two regular, down-home people. They seem very comfortable around each other ... It's like they've been together for a really long time — like an old married couple."

The couple met on the set of Rendition in 2007 becoming more open about their relationship after the finalizing of Witherspoon's divorce. The popular actress married Ryan Phillippe in 1999, but in 2006 announced that they were separating after seven years of marriage and they share the custody of their two children.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Brit's music makes no sense: Mayer

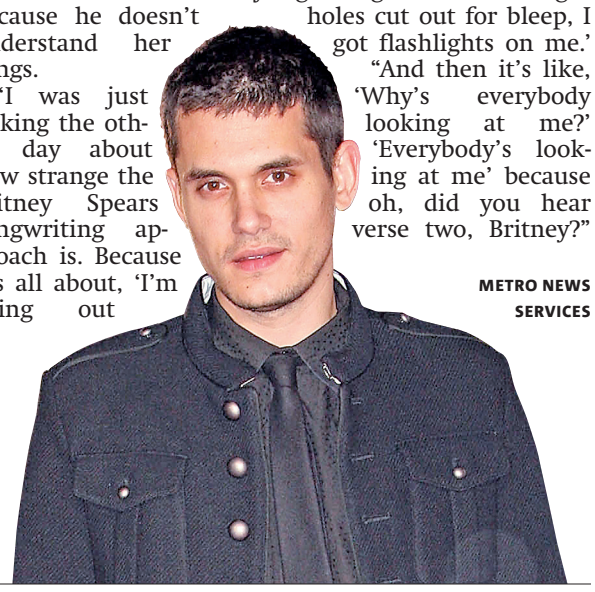
PEOPLE John Mayer thinks Britney Spears is "strange," femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The singer — who has been dating actress Jennifer Aniston for the past year — would never perform a duet with Britney because he doesn't understand her songs.

"I was just talking the other day about how strange the Britney Spears songwriting approach is. Because it's all about, 'I'm going out tonight, but nobody look at me,'" he said.

"I've never met her and I'm not coming down on her, but all of the songs are sort of like, 'I'm getting all my girls together, we're gonna go out' and 'I've got holes cut out for bleep, I got flashlights on me.' "And then it's like, 'Why's everybody looking at me?' 'Everybody's looking at me' because oh, did you hear verse two, Britney?"

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Beatty offers role and help

PEOPLE Hollywood icon Warren Beatty apparently has a movie in mind with the perfect role for Lindsay Lohan.

But if the young starlet wants it, she's going to have to jump through a few hoops. Beatty is reportedly offering the part to Lohan under the condition that she move in with him and wife Annette Bening — or at least into one their guest houses — for the duration of the filming so that Beatty can keep an eye on the notoriously difficult Lohan, according to Fox News.

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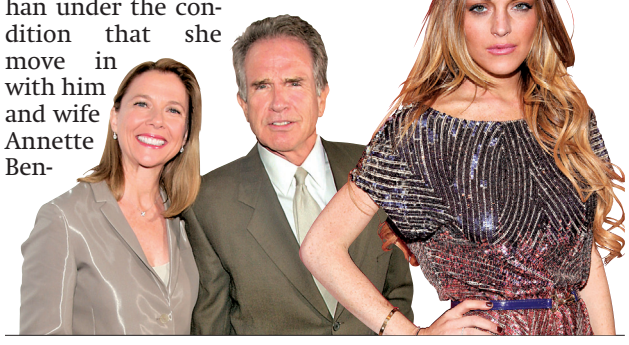


High School stars will wed

MARRIAGE Zac Efron has reportedly asked High School Musical co-star and girlfriend Vanessa Hudgens to marry him — because of pressure from Hudgens' mom.

According to sources, the 21-year-old popped the question while the couple vacationed in Japan last month.

"Zac is relieved to be out of the pressure cooker, because Vanessa's mother has been putting serious heat on him to make an honest woman out of her daughter," a source tells the National Enquirer. "She is old-school and doesn't approve of Vanessa living with Zac without some type of wedding promise." The pair reportedly plan to wed sometime next year.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

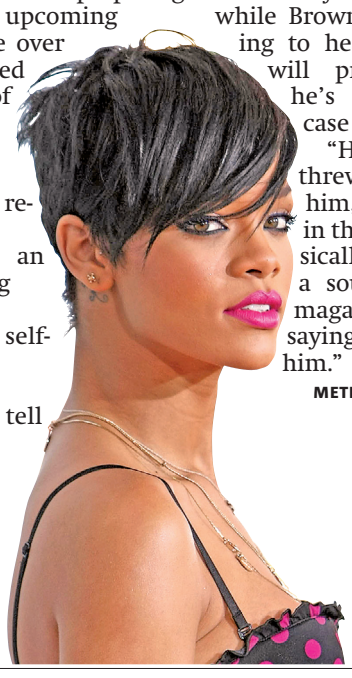
Brown may make a case for self defense

INCIDENT While preparing for his upcoming court date over his alleged assault of girlfriend Rihanna, Chris Brown is reportedly planning an interesting strategy: Pleading self-defense.

Inside sources tell Life & Style Weekly that while Brown is still waiting to hear if Rihanna will press charges, he's preparing a case against her.

"He's saying she threw a phone at him, then hit him in the head and basically just lost it," a source tells the magazine. "He's saying she attacked him."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Jonas fans: Be nice to his mom

PEOPLE There's one simple rule for dating this teenage rocker: Nick Jonas is only interested in girls that get along with his mother.

The 16-year-old Jonas Brothers singer — who previously dated Miley Cyrus — says his ideal girlfriend is "someone who's good to my mom, that's very important."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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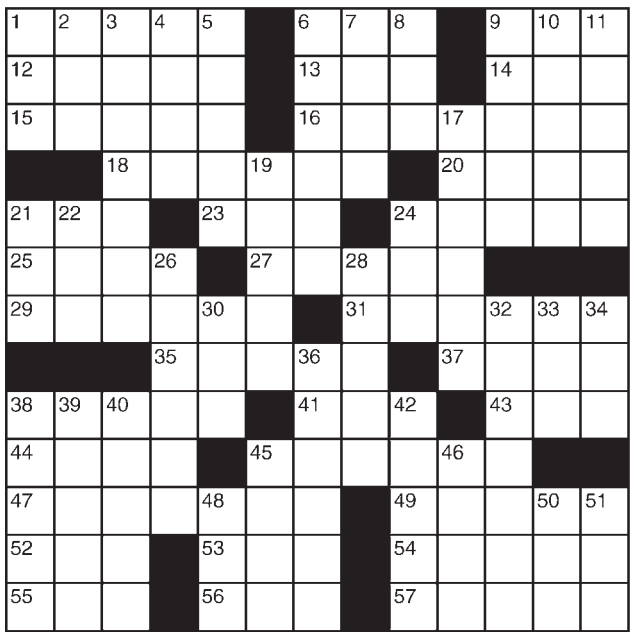

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone — one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

3	6						4	5
		4	1			8		
9			3		4			
7				3		6	8	
				6				
	5	3		1				4
			8		2			7
		1			3	2		
8	2						9	3

Crossword across

1 Spills the beans
6 English channel?
9 Shade source
12 Genuflect
13 Bruins legend
14 Ultra-modernist
15 Preamble
16 Rifle attachment
18 Drink
20 Chaste
21 Field, briefly
23 La preceder
24 Stickup
25 Mines' output
27 Grill brand
29 Potassium source
31 Los Angeles suburb
35 Jargon
37 The Red and the Black
38 Summarize
41 Legal thing
43 Recipe meas.
44 Astringent
45 Family cars
47 Group of secretaries?
49 Hugh Laurie title role
52 Greek H
53 Brewery product
54 Signed a contract
55 Lair
56 "For Me and My —"
57 Borscht necessity

Crossword down

1 Schuss
2 Quaint stopover
3 Chatroom frequenter, e.g.
4 Bacterium
5 Unkempt ones
6 Outfielder's slip-up
7 Highland hillside
8 Weep
9 Boredom
10 Ogler's looks
11 Sacred song
17 "Lakme" and "Lulu"
19 Hawkeye
21 Drew's daytime-TV predecessor
22 401(k) alternative
24 Yon maiden
26 Antipasto ingredient
28 Greeted the villain
30 Pinch
32 Obi toggle
33 Petrol
34 Kreskin's claim
36 Hansel's sis
38 Sped
39 Cheer up
40 Castro, e.g.
42 Master, in old India
45 Actress Ward
46 Zilch
48 Kvetch
50 Collection
51 Mag. staffers

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

E	M	I	T	■	P	A	M	■	G	M	E	N
D	I	O	R	■	A	P	E	■	L	A	V	E
A	N	T	I	■	G	U	N	■	O	G	E	E
M	I	A	S	M	A	■	U	P	W	A	R	D
■	■	■	T	O	N	■	■	F	E	Z	■	■
J	I	V	E	■	I	N	S	C	R	I	B	E
A	D	A	■	■	N	I	A	■	■	N	U	B
B	O	G	G	L	I	N	G	■	V	E	R	B
■	■	A	R	E	■	■	A	H	A	■	■	■
R	E	B	A	T	E	■	M	O	R	S	E	L
I	K	O	N	■	C	O	O	■	I	L	I	E
P	E	N	N	■	H	E	R	■	E	A	R	N
E	D	D	Y	■	O	R	E	■	D	Y	E	S

7	5	8	6	3	4	9	1	2
3	6	1	2	7	9	5	4	8
2	9	4	5	8	1	3	6	7
6	4	2	9	1	3	7	8	5
1	8	7	4	5	2	6	3	9
5	3	9	7	6	8	4	2	1
4	2	6	8	9	5	1	7	3
8	1	5	3	4	7	2	9	6
9	7	3	1	2	6	8	5	4

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13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min .....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Spaghetti with Scallops, Asparagus and Swiss Chard

INGREDIENTS:
2/3 lb (300 g) spaghetti
1 tbsp (15 ml) olive oil
12-oz (350 g) scallops, quartered if large
7 oz (200 g) asparagus, trimmed and cut into 1 1/2-in. (3-cm) lengths
1/2 tsp (2 ml) grated fresh ginger
1/2 lemon, zest grated and juiced
1/2 lb (250 g) Swiss chard leaves, coarsely shredded
1/3 cup (75 ml) water

METHOD:
1. Cook spaghetti in large pot of lightly salted boiling water according to packet instructions. When ready, drain.
2. While pasta is cooking, heat oil in wok or large frying pan over high heat. Add scallops in a single layer and cook, turning occasionally, about 3 minutes or until lightly golden and almost cooked through. Transfer scallops to plate, using slotted spoon, and keep warm.
3. Add asparagus to wok with ginger and lemon zest. Cook, stirring frequently, about 4 minutes until starting to soften.
4. Add Swiss chard leaves to wok and toss lightly. Pour in water, cover wok and cook about 5 minutes until Swiss chard is wilted and asparagus is tender.
5. Return scallops to wok with lemon juice and season to taste. Add spaghetti to wok and gently toss to mix with scallops and asparagus. Serve at once.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
A source of funds is revealed to a go-getter. Don't make fun of cautious behaviour. A wise guy finds an answer while daydreaming.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
A benevolent woman leaves a trail of evidence. A big setback affects someone's emotional state. A sensitive person makes guarded statements.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Pay close attention to a drama queen. An old guy has to obey his conscience. People wearing bland masks will make for a long day.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Your routine will change due to a control freak. A mischief-maker concocts thrilling scenarios. An illness initiates contact with an unusual person.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Don't try to exploit someone in the legal profession. A mystery man interferes with a conclusion. A computer will lead to a new friendship.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
An elder's remark will cause amusement. A bashful friend boasts about your deeds. Avoid any controversy concerning possessions.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
A disaster will be avoided. Being spontaneous can bring people together. Having second thoughts about a love affair creates turmoil.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
Emotional sensitivity is high in a whirlwind of activity. Rational discussions keep you hopping. A know-it-all blunders into a misunderstanding.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
A shameless thief will give you something. An apathetic person stands by the original plan. You'll find somebody to love.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Illness and obligations will come to a head. A cheerful man needs more training. A pitiful cry will reveal much more than you expected.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
A prospective partner shares your strong feelings. Avoid others who are busy doing a difficult job. The importance of a decision becomes clear.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
People are talking about a soppy person. Be careful not to get hurt in a tug-of-war. Be considerate when you're with decision-makers.

This day in history

FEB. 27, 1594: Henry IV is crowned King of France.
FEB. 27, 1860: Abraham Lincoln makes a speech at Cooper Union in New York that is largely responsible for his election.
FEB. 27, 1922: A challenge to the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution, allowing women the right to vote, is rebuffed by the Supreme Court of the United States.
FEB. 27, 1964: The government of Italy asks for help to keep the Leaning Tower of Pisa from toppling over.
FEB. 27, 1974: People magazine is published for the first time.
FEB. 27, 1999: Olusegun Obasanjo becomes Nigeria's first elected president since mid-1983.

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